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RICHARD I's REBELLION

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What if Nixon had got away with Watergate?

VICTORIAN SUMMER HOLIDAY
SUN, SEA AND SEGREGATED BEACHES

Remember the Alamo!
Step-by-step guide to Davy Crockett's defiant last stand

THE LOST GENIUS OF MOZART'S SISTER
How marriage stalled this 18th century star's career

TERROR ON THE ICE
Discover Franklin's doomed expedition to the Arctic

THE WRITE STUFF
What made Gutenberg's printing press a success?

PLUS Francis Drake: Pirate king? **Intriguing lost treasures** Yellow Turban Uprising

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THE DESTINATION FOR MILITARY HISTORY

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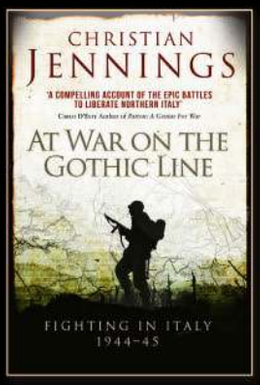

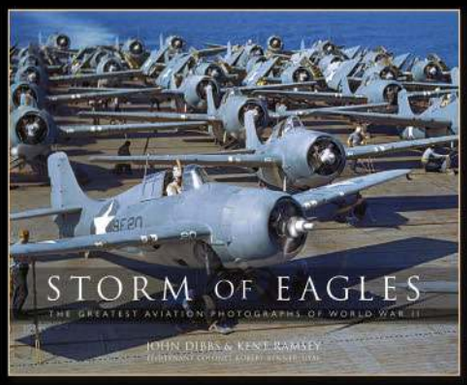

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Discover the genius of Mozart's sister from page 48

Welcome

If you asked anyone in the world to name an English king, there's a strong chance that they would name Richard the Lionheart. Whether for his inclusion in the Robin Hood mythos (and its Disney adaptation) or for his famed courage during the Third Crusade, Richard I, nicknamed 'the Lionheart', is an iconic figure. However, the legend of the lion is one that's quite divorced from the real-life monarch.

While his surcoat of three lions is still on England's royal coat of arms – not to mention hundreds of thousands of football shirts – it's unlikely the national hero actually spoke English. Though he was born in Oxford, Richard I spent most of his life either fighting in the Holy Land or in France. In fact, after his coronation in 1189, he spent only a few weeks in England. Richard cared so little for his native land he once said of the capital: "I would sell London itself if only I could find a rich enough buyer."

In this month's issue, we peel back the layers of legend and ask not just how did Richard earn his famous nickname, but how did a third son end up ruling an empire that spanned from the east of Ireland to the south of France? The true story of a family feud that turned into an outright war is more compelling than the myth.

Jack Parsons
Editor

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Win a museum getaway
To top off our look at John Franklin's doomed Arctic expedition, you can win a private tour of an exhibition on the subject and an overnight stay in Greenwich.

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Remember the Alamo
Find out how Davy Crockett's forces were overwhelmed but inspired the Texas Revolution with our detailed battle map of the iconic siege.

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Discover lost treasure
Featuring Nazi gold, sunken Spanish galleons and King John's crown jewels, discover history's greatest lost treasures and, just possibly, where to find them.

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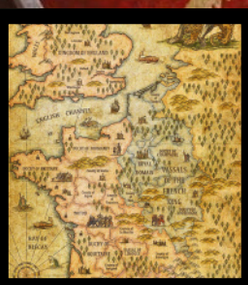

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How an obsession with finding the fabled Northwest Passage doomed John Franklin and his 128 men

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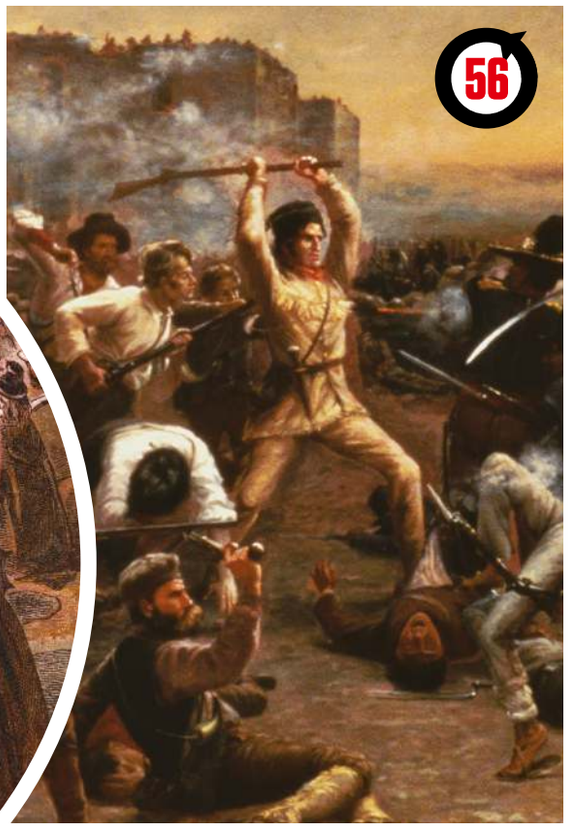

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HISTORY IN PICTURES

STALIN'S LAST STAND

The Soviet Army turned the tide of the Nazi invasion — and possibly World War II — at the Battle of Stalingrad. An all-out battle, 1,000 tons of bombs were dropped on the city, while 2 million men fought hand-to-hand, street-by-street to seize control of it for almost six months. However, the Soviets gained the upper hand during the gruelling winter months, forcing the Germans to surrender and retreat.

1942

©Getty

HISTORY IN COLOUR

DANCING WITH PRINCESS DI

This iconic image of Princess Diana dancing with actor John Travolta at a White House gala dinner in 1985 ignited 'royal fever' in the United States. A highlight of the newly married Prince Charles and Diana's first visit to America, the photo op was apparently set up by First Lady Nancy Reagan, who told Travolta to ask her to dance. Diana would wear the same velvet dress for her last official portrait in 1997.

1985

© Getty

HISTORY IN PICTURES

START OF THE STRUGGLE

A historic scene at the All India Conference Committee in Bombay, Mahatma Gandhi talks with freedom fighter Jawaharlal Nehru. The meeting led to the Quit India campaign, which called for Indians to rise up in non-violent resistance to British rule. The next day, Gandhi, Nehru and others were arrested and protests erupted nationwide. India celebrates 75 years of independence this month.

1942

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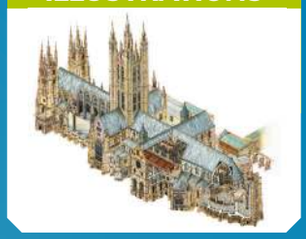

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ALL ABOUT

THE WRITTEN WORD

From carving cuneiform in clay to texting emojis, discover how the way we write has transformed through the ages

The Evolution of Script

Only four civilisations are known to have evolved writing systems entirely independently: Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and Central America. Many scripts evolved from pictures or signs for syllables, but most of today's are based on individual letters

THE PRECURSORS OF WRITING?

As agriculture developed in modern-day Iraq, simple clay tokens are made in different shapes to symbolise crops and animals, as a means of recording and sharing information. After some 4,000 years, tokens are inscribed with lines and dots to record more complex concepts.

C.7500 BCE

ROMAN WRITING

The Romans borrow the local Etruscan script that originally comes from the Greeks. The Romans turn it into letters passed on to later European cultures and many others worldwide.

RECORDING LEGENDS

The Greeks inherit and develop the alphabet from Phoenicians. Essentially the same as today's written Greek, it is used by Homer in his *Odyssey* and *Iliad*.

THE SEA TRADERS' SCRIPT

The Phoenicians, seafarers dominating the Levant, become the first people known to have used a complete alphabetical system – seen here on a 5th century BCE sarcophagus.

The alphabet was only invented once. The idea then inspired all other letter-based scripts

C.650 BCE C.800 BCE C.1200 BCE

SACRED SIGNS FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

Mayan priests develop a system of signs, or glyphs, representing words and syllables. It remains in use for almost 2,000 years until the Spanish conquest in the 16th century.

ARABIC: THE WRITING OF THE QURAN

The first recorded example of Arabic script is a 22-letter abugida, so called after its first three letters. It has evolved from Nabataean Aramaic over the previous 400 years and will be used a century later to record the Quran.

In 1270, Kublai Khan authorised a universal script. It is still on Mongolian banknotes today

C.250 BCE 512

MUD MARKS

In Mesopotamia, the Sumerians develop syllabic writing in the form of wedge-shaped or cuneiform marks made with reeds in soft mud, which is then baked. The system is used to records many other languages in the Middle East.

C.3400 BCE

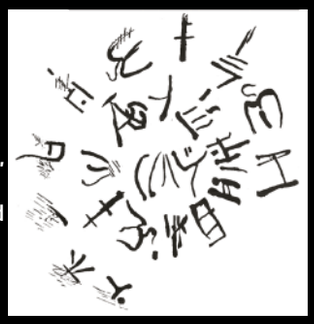
HIEROGLYPHS

Egypt's 'sacred writing' is developed by priests as a way of recording events on the walls of temples. It was used in several different forms for some 3,600 years until 400 CE.

C.3200 BCE

LINEAR A

Found mainly in Crete, Linear A is used to record a language spoken in the ancient eastern Mediterranean, but it has not been identified and the script remains undeciphered.



C.2100-1700 BCE

CHINESE: FINDING MEANING IN CRACKED SHELLS

During the Shang dynasty, signs scratched by diviners record the supposed meanings of cracks in the fire-scorched shells of turtles. A few signs survive and have since evolved into modern ideograms.

C.1200 BCE

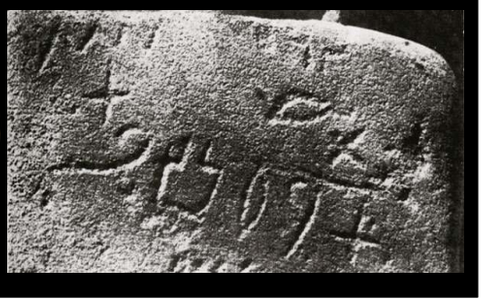
LINEAR B

Derived from the undeciphered Linear A, this script with 87 syllabic signs and 100 other 'signifier' signs is used to record the language of the Mycenaean Greeks.

C.1450 BCE

THE FIRST ALPHABET

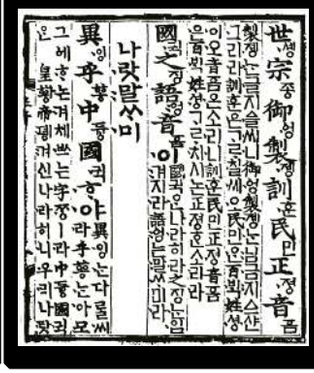
The earliest example of a phonetic alphabet was recorded in a cave in the Egyptian desert in the Wadi el-Hol valley. Written in a Semitic language that's yet to be deciphered, the text appears alongside traditional Egyptian glyphs.



C.1800 BCE

KOREA'S 'GREAT SCRIPT'

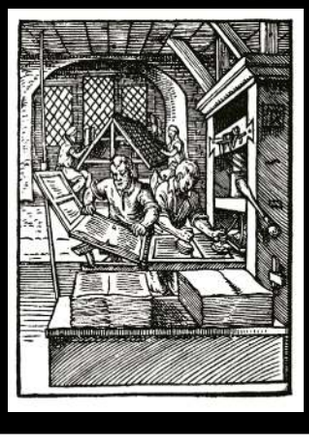
The Korean alphabet, known as Hangul or 'Great Script', is devised by the king, Sejong. He was inspired by the need to escape the difficulties of using Chinese to write Korean and it is still in use today.



1444

GUTENBERG'S REVOLUTION

Gutenberg prints the Bible in the first significant use of printing with movable type. His choice of Gothic typeface will endure in Germany until the 20th century.



1454

GARAMOND'S NEW DESIGN

In France, Claude Garamond, an engraver of punches, produces a new typeface based on Roman models. His design — and other similar ones by contemporaries — has made Garamond-style typefaces among the most popular of those in use today.

Today, 4 billion people use the Latin alphabet. Another 2 billion use letter-based scripts

1530-45

INSIDE HISTORY

GUTENBERG'S WORKSHOP

MAINZ, GERMANY, 1454

In autumn 1454, a group of German craftsmen did something totally new. Six men set type in frames, while 12 others worked at printing presses, positioning the typeset pages, laying on ink with fat, soft leather ink-balls, positioning the paper, sliding the pages into position, winding down the press. Once they were done, they had changed the world: they had printed the first pages of the Bible.

Before Johannes Gutenberg's invention, books were copied by scribes, letter by tedious letter, over weeks or months, with errors galore. In 1450, all of Europe's books could have been held in one building. Gutenberg's printing press – using movable type to imprint paper – multiplied the speed of production several hundred-fold, error free. Within 50 years, there were books by the million – an information revolution matched only by the invention of the internet.

Gutenberg's genius lay in putting together two unrelated techniques: medal-making and wine-pressing. Medals were 'struck' by hammering a 'punch' on to a round piece of metal. Grapes were compressed by wooden plates powered by screws and levers. It took Gutenberg 20 years to work out how to combine the two and then refine many other details, like how exactly to turn a medal-punch into metal type, choose the right texture of paper and make the right sort of ink.

Gutenberg's aim was to help unify Christendom by producing error-free prayer books and Bibles for the Church – and possibly make a profit doing so. Ironically, he achieved exactly the reverse. Some 60 years later, the ability of ordinary people to read the Bible without a priest sparked another revolution – the Reformation – that blew Christian unity apart forever. Sadly, Gutenberg didn't profit much, either. He fell out with his financier, who called in his loans. Gutenberg died in 1468, his accomplishments largely unappreciated.

Gutenberg's typeface

The typeface taken from Medieval script came to be known as 'Gothic' or 'blackletter.' Though gradually superseded by many easier-to-read typefaces taken from Roman sources, Gothic forms like this survived in Germany until after World War II. In Gutenberg's day, several letters had various different versions, depending on how they were used.

Typecases

Individual pieces of metal type were kept in boxes called cases. The smaller letters, which were used most often, were kept in a lower case that was easier to reach. Capital letters, which were used less frequently, were kept in an upper case. Because of this old storage convention, we still refer to small letters as 'lowercase' and capital letters as 'uppercase'.

Forging the future

As well as building the printing press, former goldsmith Gutenberg also invented the moveable type. This meant he couldn't just go out and buy type piece, he had to make them. This involved heating the metal in a furnace, scooping it up with ladle and pouring it into the hand mould.

Punch-making

The punch cutter used a sharp steel tool to carve the shape of a letter in reverse on the end of a shank of metal. He sliced away minute slivers of steel no more than 0.01 millimetres thick. They could be as little as a tenth of that, just one micron thick (a thousandth of a millimetre, or a twenty-five-thousandth of an inch), producing letters as fine as in a modern laser printer.

Enter the matrix

Gutenberg borrowed a technique from coin making, where the carved steel punch would be hammered on to a softer metal medal to create a 'matrix'. This matrix was then placed inside the hand mould, where the molten metal poured into it would fill the punch's imprint and would solidify as a type piece.

The printing press

Paper is placed upside down into a frame called a frisket to keep it in position, then is lowered onto the set type, which has been slicked with ink. This is then placed under a large threaded screw press, which has a lever that has to be pulled tight to apply the ink to the paper.

Sticky ink

Gutenberg's printing process needed a slightly sticky and deeper black ink to produce a good print. Unlike the water-based ink for woodblock printing, Gutenberg combined linseed oil, resin and soot for his ink. When printing, the type was coated with ink using spongy, leather-covered ink balls.

Printing paper

Papermaking was a skill that had to be refined for printing. Chinese paper, which spread westwards in the Middle Ages, was fine for printing from woodblocks, but too soft for print. The paper used by scribes was too hard. It took a lot of experimentation to discover the right consistency. For higher quality, vellum was used instead of paper.

Gutenberg's Bible

Gutenberg chose to set his Bible in two columns, because this was the tradition followed by scribes for centuries. The short lines are easy to read, the columns form pleasing proportions between horizontals and verticals and the wide margins leave plenty of room for illustrations. But Gutenberg aimed to do better than any scribe. For instance, it was hard for a scribe to create a 'justified' right-hand margin, but easy for a typesetter.

The hand mould

The hand mould is something familiar to many generations of printers. The type-maker poured hot metal – a combination of lead, tin and antimony – into a slot on to an imprint of a letter. This produced a 'type' on which the letter was reversed. In printing, it comes out the right way round.

© Adrian Mann

THE Anatomy of A VICTORIAN NOVELIST

UNITED KINGDOM, 1837-1901

INSPIRATION

WHAT IS PROSE WITHOUT A MARVELLOUS IDEA?

Queen Victoria's reign saw huge population growth, improvements in technology and changing worldviews, along with great poverty. There were also fascinations with death and macabre themes as well as romantic, modern fairy tales – plenty of inspiration abounded for the canny author.

SERIAL STORIES

GIVE THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

Novels were often published in three parts to maximise profits and also make reading more affordable for people. There were also popular series that featured in papers and periodicals, making writing a very time-consuming occupation as authors needed to meet demand.

AN UPPER-CLASS VOCATION

IN A QUEST TO BECOME AN AUTHOR, FIRST LEARN TO WRITE

Literacy rates were on the rise during the Victorian period. People could commonly read – giving the writers their audience – but not write. Instead, most writers were from the upper classes often benefited as much from the freedom to pursue their craft as the education that inherited wealth gave them. The era's most iconic author, Charles Dickens, was the exception to the rule, working in a factory aged 12 while his family languished in debtor's prison.

A GENTLEMANLY PROFESSION

WHAT'S REALLY IN A NAME?

In Victorian Britain, publishing any kind of literary work was reserved for men. However, this did not deter many female authors who simply published under male pseudonyms. For example, Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* was originally published by an 'Ellis Bell', while George Eliot is still better known by her pen name than as Mary Anne Evans.

PAPER AND MANUSCRIPTS

PAPER CAME AT A PREMIUM

Until the mid 1800s, the process of making paper was done by hand. But advances during the Industrial Revolution mechanised procedures that allowed output to increase. However, paper remained an expensive luxury.

PEN AND INK

PLUCK A FANCY FEATHER

Despite the typewriter being a Victorian invention, most writing was penned by hand. The Victorians used quill pens – long feathers from large birds such as swans that were treated and sharpened. Later on, metal nibs were also used with quills.

THE WRITING DESK

TAKE A SEAT

Writing, as a pastime or vocation of the upper classes, was almost ceremonial. It was an intellectual and studious activity for which no ordinary table was sufficient. Different types of desks evolved with the fashions, usually consisting of a slanted fold-down top and plenty of cubbyholes for inkwells, quills and other paraphernalia.

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Day in the life

SCRIPTORIUM MONK

THE SCRIBES WHO KEPT LEARNING ALIVE ENDURED A PUNISHING DAILY ROUTINE

AN ENGLISH MONASTERY, 14TH CENTURY

Monastic life was organised around the eight canonical offices spread across the day when members of the community came together in chapel to chant, sing and pray. In between these devotions, scribes would spend six or more hours at work in the scriptorium. The copying of ancient texts and theological works that took place here represented one of the crucial intellectual endeavours of the Medieval era. With goose quills in their hands and water clocks keeping time, the monks preserved the legacy of the past and laid the foundations for much of what followed in the Western cultural tradition.

1 MORNING PRAYER

A monastery's precise schedule changed with the seasons. The day's first major service, Lauds, would take place just after sunrise. Afterwards, monks would make for the cloister: a place for quiet contemplation, private prayer and lectio divina, or devotional reading. This was also where they would wash, shave and perhaps discuss tasks for the day ahead.

Monks prayed frequently throughout the day

2 OFF TO WORK

After the next act of worship, it was time for work. While other monks cared for the land and tended the kitchen, scribes copied ancient texts out by hand. A single book could take weeks to reproduce and the intricate work damaged their eyesight. The most talented scribes would be entrusted with the delicate tasks of 'illumination', adding decorative borders and hand-drawn illustrations to the books.

3 CHAPTER MEETING

The timing and frequency of such meetings varied, but matters of discipline were apt to arise. Beyond the scratching of quills and the rubbing of pumice stones to smooth out parchment, silence was the goal in many scriptoriums. Scribes were expected to use hand signals when they required help or materials. This rule was sometimes more honoured in the breach.

Not all monks worked in the scriptorium – some tended to the land or worked in the kitchen

DINNER

This was the main meal of the day, though snacks were allowed at other times, especially as the days grew longer. The typical diet was based on cereals, fruit and vegetables, with a little fish or eggs from time to time. Daily allotments of wine and ale varied widely and those in poor health were entitled to a portion or two of meat.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

One of the crucial materials of the scribe's trade was parchment. Often sourced locally, it was generally made from the skins of cows, sheep and sometimes the occasional goat. However, the arrival of uterine vellum usually represented a special occasion. This was constructed from the skin of aborted or stillborn calves and, as unsavoury as that sounds, it resulted in the finest parchment imaginable.

COMPLINE

The other divine offices – Prime, Terce, Sext, None and Vespers – punctuated the working day at regular intervals and drew monks away from their labours. Finally came Compline, ahead of the setting of the sun. Afterwards, the doors to the cloister would be locked and the monastery's abbot or prior would make a tour of inspection to ensure that all was well.

TIME FOR BED

Monastic accommodation varied widely. In many houses, monks shared a dormitory, free from partitions, in which they were given a bed, a hook on which to hang clothes and a shelf. More rigorous orders preferred individual cells and members spent much more of their day in isolation. Abbots, as one might expect, typically enjoyed private and cosier billets.

MIDNIGHT VIGIL

All of the day's services were heralded by the tolling of bells, but a rude awakening in the middle of the night alerted monks that it was time for Vigils. In some of the more rigorous religious orders, monks were expected to remain awake following these devotions but more often than not they were granted the opportunity for an additional snooze.

The scriptorium, often located close to the monastery's library, was a place of intense and usually silent industry

© Alamy, Getty Images

How to WRITE JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

SHODO IS THE ULTIMATE FORM OF SELF-EXPRESSION, TRANSMITTING YOUR INNER SPIRIT ONTO PAPER JAPAN, 4TH CENTURY – PRESENT DAY

Calligraphy has long been held in high esteem in Japan. It's written in kanji, an alphabet that was adopted in the 4th century after the arrival of Buddhism. Emperors and aristocrats took up the art of calligraphy that the Buddhist monks used to write holy scripture.

Over time, they began to put their own spin on the art form. Japanese Zen Buddhist monks practiced a style known as 'shodo' – 'sho' translates to 'handwriting' and 'do' to 'the way'. They believed calligraphy had a spiritual significance, allowing you to transmit your ki, or inner spirit, through the brush onto paper if you could become clear of thoughts.

Clear your mind

To practice shodo, your mind needs to be 'mushin' – free from any distracting thoughts and emotions – so that you can concentrate on the characters.

Channel your ki

Ki is the Japanese concept of energy, feelings and emotions. Calligraphy helps channel this from the self, through ink, onto paper.

Have a cup of tea

Japanese calligraphy is often displayed in tearooms, where the phrase or poetry might set the theme of the tea ceremony meeting or inform discussion.

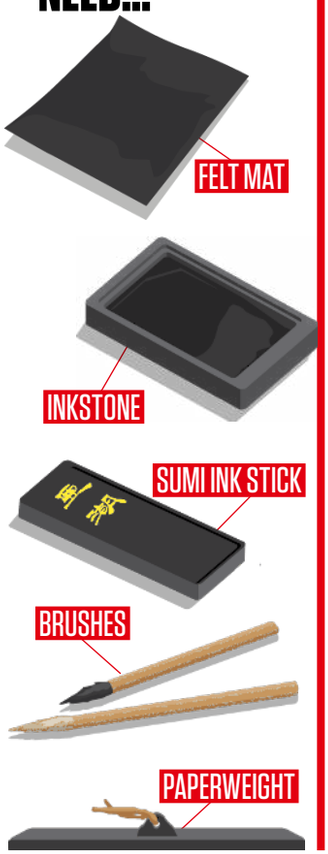
Sumi ink

The ink used for calligraphy is made by masters from the soot of pine branches, preferably selected from the superior mountain woodlands of Nara or Suzuka.

Rice paper

Rice paper comes in two types, raw and sized, which have different textures and so bring out different shades in sumi inks.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED...



01 ACQUIRE THE FOUR TREASURES

To start, you will need what are collectively known as the four treasures: the inkstone, some ink, a brush and some paper. Brushes are the most important and they come in three types – hard, soft and mixed – that are all made using animal hair. As a beginner, a mixed brush is usually a good one to begin practising with.

02 PREPARE YOUR INK

Ink is sold in solid blocks known as sticks that you have to prepare in an inkstone before it can be used. First, drop a few drips of water onto the inkstone. Then, take your sumi stick and gently grind it into the water so that black ink is collected in the well. This repetitive ritual should also prepare you for the next step.

How not to... get stuck in the past

Shodo is still taught in schools across Japan, but young people have found a new way to put their brushes to use for self-expression: performance calligraphy.

This vibrant and energetic take on the beloved traditional art form involves teams or individuals using huge 4x6 metre paper canvases, oversized brushes and large paint pots to perform large-scale calligraphy to pop music. Performed on stages or street corners, the artists paint characters to the beat, often drawing the lyrics to the songs and adding in extra choreographed dances alongside their brushstrokes.

One of the biggest events in this style of calligraphy is the National High School Performance Calligraphy Tournament, where every year school teams battle it out to be crowned performance calligraphy champions.

03 RELAX YOUR MIND

Mushin is an integral part of all Japanese arts. It is a state of mind that allows things to happen naturally, with no conscious thought. It usually takes years to perfect – your sensei will be able to help you with this – but you can start by adopting a relaxed posture and completely emptying your mind.

04 TAKE UP THE BRUSH

Once you are relaxed, it's time to pick up the brush. Hold it with your index and middle fingers at the axis and place your thumb underneath. Make sure to hold the brush higher on the handle than you would a normal paintbrush as this allows for less forced control and for the strokes to come from within.

05 COMPOSE YOUR KANJI

Now begin drawing. Calligraphy is made of harmony and balance – to balance your kanji, you can use a grid to get used to the spacing or just jump straight in. Vary your brush strokes between straight, strong lines and curved, delicate ones to show fluidity. Most importantly, commit to your work and let your ki flow through the brush onto paper.

06 STAMP YOUR WORK

A traditional hanko stamp usually bears the calligrapher's last or family name, but you can have your nickname or even a favourite phrase or saying on yours. When you have finished writing your shodo, take your stamp, dip it in some red ink and apply it next to your kanji to claim your masterpiece.

3 FAMOUS... JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHERS

ONO NO MICHIKAZE

894-966, JAPAN

Known as one of the 'Three Brush Traces', Ono no Michikaze was one of the key calligraphers that added distinctly Japanese elements to the medium. He is known as the greatest of his time for square, cursive and semi-cursive scripts.

FUJIWARA NO SUKEMASA

944-98, JAPAN

The second of the Three Brush Traces, Fujiwara no Sukemasa became the leading calligrapher after Michikaze. He became official brush writer for Emperor Enyu at the age of just 27, and his fame spread far and wide.

FUJIWARA NO YUKINARI

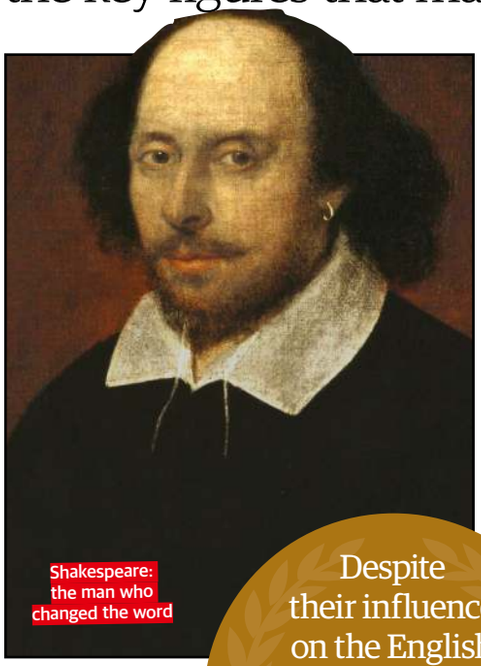
972-1027, JAPAN

The son of a courtier, Fujiwara no Yukinari was a refined calligrapher and skilled poet – many of his beautiful calligraphy poems are still on display today. His work showed an elegant blend of cursive and semi-cursive forms.

© Ed Crooks

Hall of Fame
WRITERS AND WORDSMITHS

Today, English is spoken by over 300 million people. But who were the key figures that made the language we know so well?



Shakespeare: the man who changed the word

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

ENGLISH 1564-1616

Although his inclusion here might seem like a foregone conclusion, the Bard's enormous impact on the English language is obvious not just in famous quotes like "to be or not to be", but also in the many phrases he coined that we now consider commonplace, such as 'lily-livered', 'bated breath' and, indeed, 'foregone conclusion'. But his influence is greater still. As the creator of an estimated 2,000 words, including 'amazement', 'bedroom', and 'fashionable', it's impossible to imagine what English would be like without him. His 'monumental' position as a master of English is 'secure'.

Despite their influence on the English language, not a single original manuscript by either Chaucer or Shakespeare still exists

Alfred was a keen early champion of the English language

ALFRED THE GREAT

ENGLISH 849-899

Often regarded as the first true English king, Alfred's reign was dominated by a seemingly endless series of battles with Viking raiding parties. But Alfred's well-deserved nickname 'the Great' does not just stem from his military victories over the Danes. Deeply concerned by the impact the Danish raids had on standards of education and aware that levels of literacy had fallen dramatically, Alfred pushed hard for primary education to be taught in English instead of Latin. He also ensured several major texts of the time were translated into English, probably ensuring the survival of the language in the process.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER

ENGLISH 1343-1400

Like Shakespeare, Chaucer is a writer whose words not only had a literary impact, but who transformed the nature of the English language forever. Chaucer's writing made it acceptable for the aristocratic nobility to speak Chaucer's Middle English (essentially a mix of Anglo-Saxon, Danish and French) instead of the French they had spoken since coming over with the Norman Conquest. Indeed, a year before Chaucer's death, the succession of Henry IV ensured that, for the first time since 1066, England had a king whose mother tongue was English, rather than French.

Chaucer made English literature acceptable

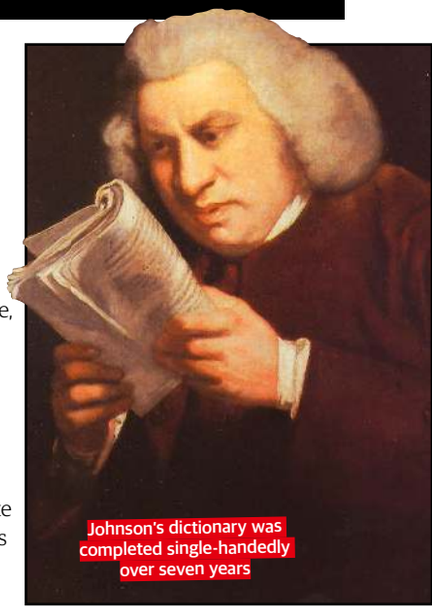
"I never desire to converse with a man who has written more than he has read"

Samuel Johnson

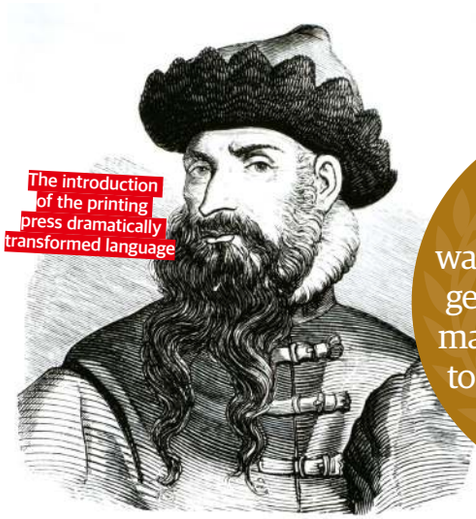
SAMUEL JOHNSON

ENGLISH 1709-1784

Contrary to popular belief, Dr Johnson was not the first man to compile an English dictionary. Robert Cawdrey, for example, produced one, the *Table Alphabeticall* in 1604, a full 150 years before Johnson produced his famous *Dictionary Of The English Language* in 1755. Johnson's work is rightly held in higher regard, however, partly because he cleverly used quotations to demonstrate how to correctly use many of the words, but mostly because it was both more influential and, quite simply, it contained so many words. Cawdrey's book had defined barely 2,000 – Johnson's included well over 40,000.



Johnson's dictionary was completed single-handedly over seven years



The introduction of the printing press dramatically transformed language

The Norman French language was very different from general French. When many Normans moved to England after 1066, it changed even more

JOHANNES GUTENBERG **GERMAN** C.1397-1468

Gutenberg's achievement in creating the printing press impacted not just the English language but the world as a whole – he arguably created mass communication at a stroke. That said, his influence on the English language is irretrievably bound up with that of English merchant William Caxton who was, after all, the man who brought the printing press to England and the first retailer of books there. His achievement was undoubtedly enormous, too, but Gutenberg just pips him to the post as the actual inventor.

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

NORMAN 1028-1087

William conquered not just the English but English itself

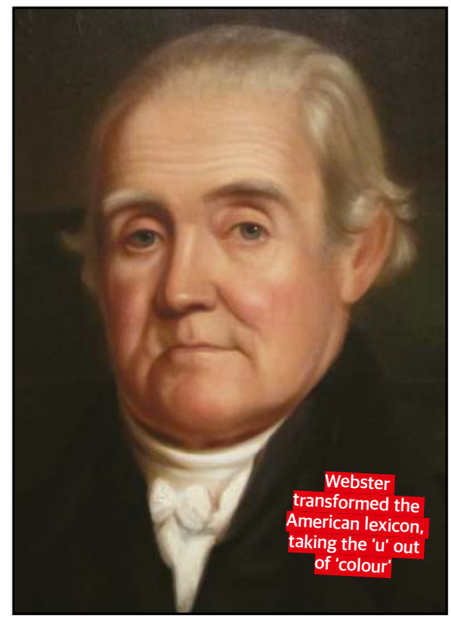
Although never an educational reformer like Alfred the Great, William transformed English simply by leading the Norman Conquest in the first place. Like the Roman and Saxon invaders before them, the Normans permanently made their mark on the language. It is thought that of the 10,000 words introduced from Norman French after 1066, some two thirds are still in use. This includes words as crucial as 'justice', 'marriage', 'govern' and 'parliament'.

300 years on, the novel continues to thrive

DANIEL DEFOE

ENGLISH 1660-1731

In 1719, Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* was published. The jury is still out as to whether this was the first English novel – some would claim John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678) or Sir Thomas Mallory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* (1485) as more deserving of this title. Regardless, whoever created it deserves credit for inventing a medium that has enabled the likes of Austen, Dickens, Orwell and Rowling to use English so effectively to reach so many people.



Webster transformed the American lexicon, taking the 'u' out of 'colour'

NOAH WEBSTER

AMERICAN 1758-1843

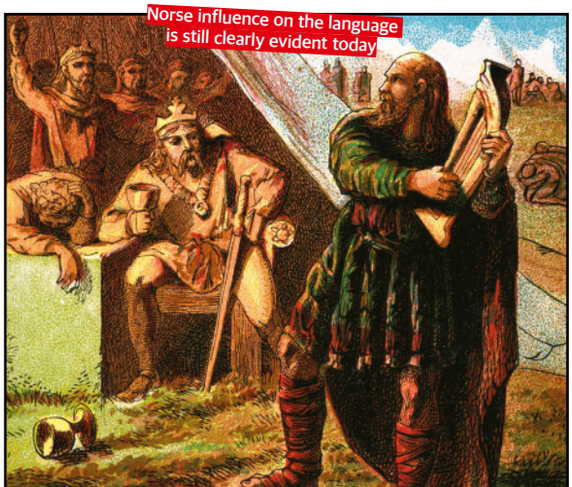
Noah Webster was a schoolteacher who revolutionised English in the United States. While Americans had been producing their own words – many derived from Native American and African languages – for some time, they did not necessarily all spell them the same way until Webster's 1828 *American Dictionary Of The English Language*. He also sought to rescue English from the "clamour of pedantry", spelling many words in his new democratised English phonetically – for example, 'color' instead of 'colour' and 'center' instead of 'centre'.

GUTHRUM

DANISH UNKNOWN-890

As important as Alfred's efforts to boost the English language were, his Viking enemies made their mark, too. Today, more than 1,400 place names in northern England are of Scandinavian origin and words such as 'leg', 'skull', 'husband', 'sky' and 'take' have Viking roots. Unlike the later Norman Conquest, however, it is difficult to attribute the Viking raids to any one person. Alfred's rival Guthrum, ruler of the Danelaw, is a good a choice as any.

Alfred the Great's the established English-language schools for his own children, the children of nobles and other less privileged pupils



Norse influence on the language is still clearly evident today

Berners-Lee's legacy is the world wide web

TIM BERNERS-LEE

BRITISH 1955 - PRESENT

All revolutions in mass communication from the printing press and telephone to radio, film and TV have changed English in their own way. Although still in its formative stages, the world wide web and the proliferation of mobile phone technology in the last 20 years is undeniably transforming the English language in ways difficult to fully absorb. One thing is clear, however: the resilience of English to adapt and evolve in a changing environment is considerable.

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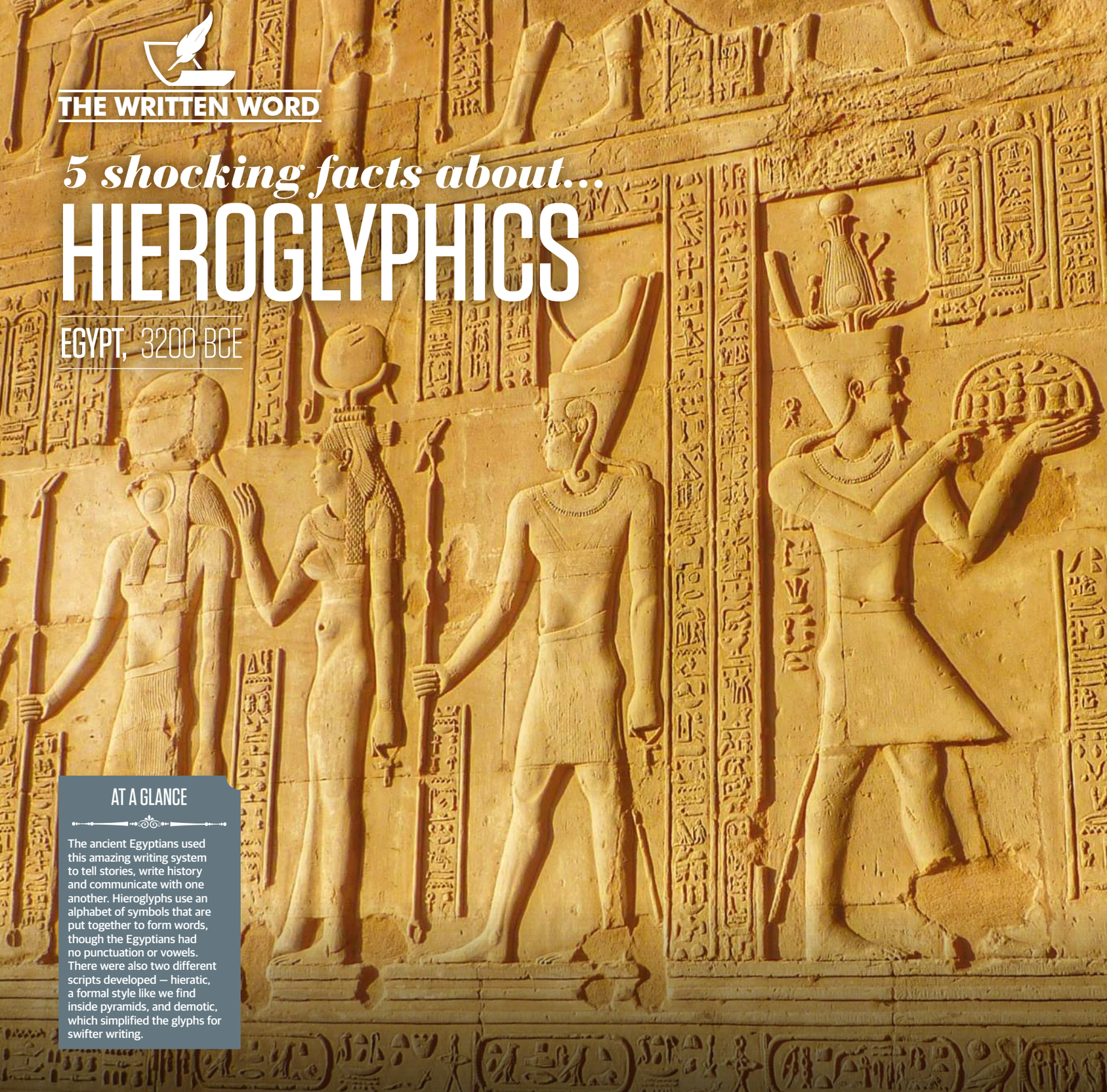
5 shocking facts about... HIEROGLYPHICS

EGYPT, 3200 BCE



AT A GLANCE

The ancient Egyptians used this amazing writing system to tell stories, write history and communicate with one another. Hieroglyphs use an alphabet of symbols that are put together to form words, though the Egyptians had no punctuation or vowels. There were also two different scripts developed — hieratic, a formal style like we find inside pyramids, and demotic, which simplified the glyphs for swifter writing.

01 The oldest alphabet

The first Egyptian hieroglyphs appear on pottery from circa 3200 BCE. The writing was developed to convey the language using two types of glyphs: phonograms, to denote sounds, and ideograms, to show ideas. Hieroglyphics read using both types of symbols either on their own or coupled with others.

02 Reading the symbols

Hieroglyphs can be read left to right, right to left or up and down. Scribes put the characters — including animals and people — facing the direction of reading. Scribes also used determinative glyphs that were unspoken but helped the reader to tell the meaning of particular words and phrases.

03 The Rosetta Stone

Egyptian hieroglyphics were not fully deciphered until the discovery of the Rosetta Stone in 1799. The stone has the same inscription carved in Greek, demotic and hieroglyphs, which enabled French scholar Jean-François Champollion to become the first man in centuries to read the ancient symbols.

04 Holy writing

The word 'hieroglyph' comes from an amalgamation of two Greek words — 'hiero' for holy and 'glypho' for writing — as the Greeks regarded many of the intricate symbols to be sacred. The Egyptians also believed that the glyphs were created by Thoth, the god of writing and knowledge, in an effort to make his followers wiser.

05 Skills of the elite

The Egyptians used hieroglyphics to tell their history on papyrus scrolls, adorn the walls of tombs and document prayers and religious rituals. Scribes took many years to train and just three per cent of the population — notably the educated priests and royalty — could read the glyphs.

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Yasuko Fujino, *In the Garden* (detail)
Silk, metal thread, mohair; 250 x 410cm © Yasuko Fujino

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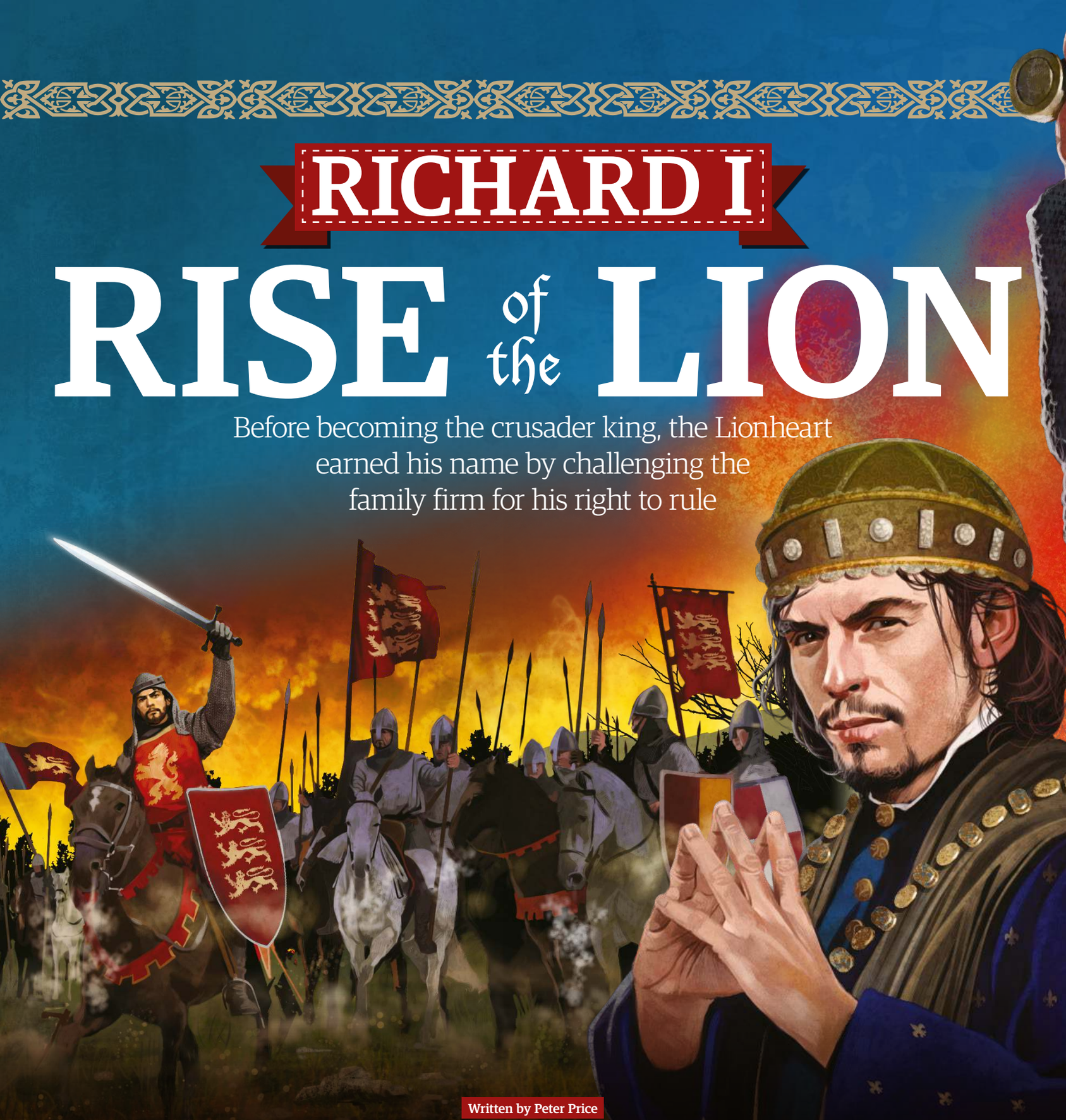
RICHARD I

RISE of the LION

Before becoming the crusader king, the Lionheart earned his name by challenging the family firm for his right to rule



Written by Peter Price

Richard I's exploits during the Third Crusade made him a legend in his own lifetime, and he is widely viewed as a paragon of chivalry, a fearless warrior and staunch defender of Christendom – in essence, the quintessential Medieval king. But 'Lionheart' was not a name won on the sands of the Holy Land; instead, it was in the grassy fields of Europe. It was here that he would forge his reputation as a great military commander, canny politician and a ruler with a somewhat tyrannical streak. The catalyst for this would come from a protracted and bloody family feud that plagued Europe with near constant rebellions and warfare.

Richard was born in Oxford to King Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, rulers of England and the newly created Angevin Empire, named after Henry's ancestors from the duchy of Anjou. Both powerful figures in their own right, Henry had forged England into a powerhouse on the continent, helped in no small way by Eleanor, who had brought her wealthy duchy of Aquitaine into the Angevin sphere of influence.

The family life of the Angevins was complicated, to say the least. Henry was an absent father, spending much of his reign travelling the

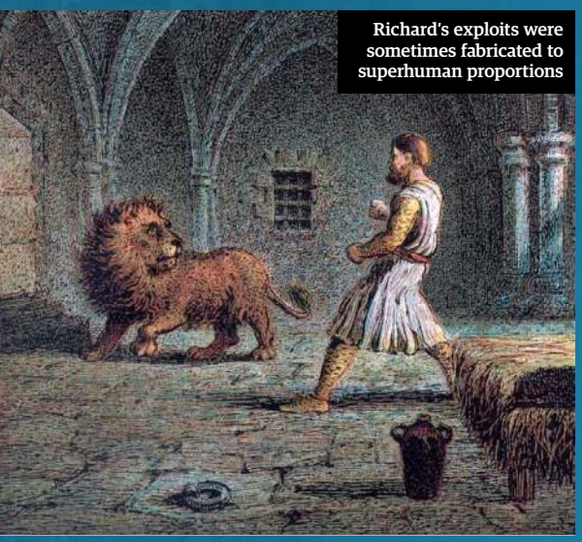
length and breadth of his vast kingdom. These absences would go on for so long that at one point the archbishop of Canterbury felt the need to remind him of his children, "from the sight of whom scarce even the hardest-hearted father could any longer withhold his gaze."

Overbearing when he was present, Henry would attempt to limit his sons' influence until he deemed them ready to inherit lands and power of their own. There might have been a hint of paranoia in his actions, as he would not have wanted any one of his prodigies to have the power to challenge him directly for the crown. While keeping his older sons on a tight leash, the king would lavish gifts and praise on his youngest. Whether he meant to or not, Henry's favouritism drove an inexorable wedge between him and one child in particular: Richard.

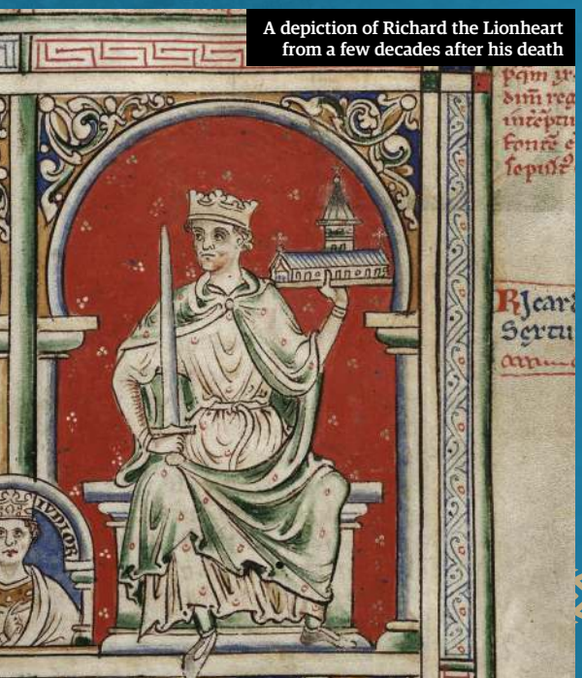
"The family life of the Angevins was complicated, to say the least"

Even before the dysfunctional royal family came to loggerheads, the Angevins already carried a somewhat unsavoury reputation. They were known as 'the devil's brood' – a name gained from a dark legend on the family's origins. The tale tells of an early prince of Anjou who was married to Melusine, a woman who was flawless in every aspect save one: she hated attending sermons and would always leave church before Mass. Disquiet grew until one day the prince ordered his men to prevent Melusine from leaving the church as the Mass was about to start. Displaying supernatural powers, Melusine flew out of the window, never to be seen again. Contemporary critics seized on this as a way of attacking the family and their often tyrannical rule. However, Richard embraced the story and would openly joke that the family were spawned from the devil.

Richard's early life was spent in England in the company of his brothers and mother, who he seemed to have a much better relationship with than he did with his father. He received a comprehensive education befitting a prince of royal blood and was schooled in languages, warfare, the arts and presumably administration.



Richard's exploits were sometimes fabricated to superhuman proportions



A depiction of Richard the Lionheart from a few decades after his death

His first foray onto the political stage was in his early teens, when his father used him as a bargaining chip in an alliance with the Count of Barcelona. His betrothal to the count's daughter came with the understanding that he would stand to inherit the lucrative duchy of Aquitaine, currently held by his mother.

While the betrothal would ultimately come to nothing, the precedent was set for Richard's inheritance. By 1172, he had been betrothed to Alice, the daughter of the French king Louis VII. Because Louis had lordship over Aquitaine, Richard paid homage to Louis and in turn his own brother and heir to the throne, Henry the Young King. The Angevins were trying to display a united family front, but the cracks were beginning to show and Richard resented feeling like a puppet dancing to the will of another.

> "Richard resented feeling like a puppet dancing to the will of another"

Henry II had raised his eldest son Henry, known as the Young King, to be his heir from a young age, and he was to many the epitome of a chivalric prince. He was tall, handsome and revelled in the pageantry of the tournament, with his prowess at the jousting tilts earning him many admiring followers. As well as a paragon of chivalry, he was also seen as glib, feckless and vain, perhaps not surprising with all the praise and accolades lavished upon him. Henry II would go so far as to crown his son king in his lifetime – though, crucially, without ceding his throne. Henry II also personally waited on the young heir at a banquet, a massive show of prestige in the Medieval world.

Despite these gestures, the king was unwilling to give his sons, including Richard and Geoffrey, any real power in the form of land and holdings. When John, the youngest of the brood, was given three castles for a wedding dowry aged only five, the Young King was incensed. He needed money to pay and retain his retinue of knights and being passed over did not sit well with him or his brothers, who were equally resentful of John.

Tired of this treatment, the Young King rose in rebellion against his father in early 1173. The situation was exacerbated when Richard and Geoffrey, 15 and 14 respectively, made their first forays into the military world taking up arms and declaring in favour of their brother.

The family was further fractured when Eleanor, ever at odds with Henry II, supported her sons rather than her husband. The king had mistakenly not kept his wife close, thinking that she would not interfere directly with the rebellion because of her advancing age. Many theories surround Eleanor's reasoning to defy Henry, with the most

Before embarking on a crusade, Richard swore an oath to renounce his past wickedness. This was an effort to show that he was worthy to take the cross

The devil's brood

The Angevin dynasty ruled their empire for three generations

Henry II 1133-89

The first monarch of the Angevin dynasty, Henry instilled ruthless ambition in his children while keeping them on a short leash. This heavy-handed rule would cause his sons to fight him relentlessly, eventually leading to his downfall.

Eleanor of Aquitaine 1122-1204

The matriarch of the Angevin family, Eleanor would spend much of her adult life imprisoned by Henry for inciting rebellion against him. She would outlive all but two of her seven children by Henry.

Henry the Young King

1155-83

Crowned when Henry II still held the throne, Henry the Younger repeatedly rebelled against his father in protest over lacking any real political power or holdings.

Geoffrey, Duke of Brittany 1158-86

Having a reputation for deceit and treachery, Geoffrey would prove to be a constant thorn in his father's and brothers' sides. Like many of the Angevins, he died young, probably as a result of being trampled at a tournament.

William 1153-56

Matilda 1156-89

Eleanor 1161-1214

Joan 1165-99

Richard the Lionheart

1157-99

A legendary figure in his own lifetime, he is so ingrained into the cultural history of Britain that a chronicler trying to garner favour with the King claimed that he had managed to trace Richards heritage back to Alfred the Great and even to Noah and Woden.

Berengaria of Navarre

1165-1230

Her marriage to Richard caused considerable trouble as the king had been promised to a French princess, the sister of Philip II.

John Lackland 1167-1216

The youngest and favourite son to Henry II, John would become infamous in later life for his lackluster rule, clashes with the English nobility and losing most of England's continental possessions.

Isabelle of Angoulême

c.1188-1246

John's second wife, she would father his five children and possessed a temper as volatile as his own.

Richard of Cornwall 1209-72

Joan 1210-38

Isabella 1214-41

Eleanor 1215-75

Eleanor of Provence c.1223-91

Although she supported her husband throughout his reign, Eleanor was hated by the population of London, who saw her as an outsider, coining the derogatory term 'Savoyards' to describe her and her retinue.

Henry III 1207-72

With the loss of Anjou in the reign of his father, Henry III's reign was filled with rebellious barons. His attempts to return the Angevin Empire to its former glory were met with defeat and disappointment.

A gentleman's war

Did the brutal nature of Medieval warfare have space for a code of conduct?

The chivalric code was at the heart of 'gentlemanly' warfare, and knights were expected to protect the weak and innocent and show mercy to fallen foes. While these ideals worked in theory and on the tourney grounds, the realities of war usually saw them left on the sidelines.

Warfare was not about single combats or pitched battles featuring heroic charges – it was a brutal game of cat and mouse. Rather than risk your entire force in an all-or-nothing pitched battle, raids on enemy supply lines, skirmishes and sieges were the order of the day.

Richard I is often held up as a chivalrous figure, stemming from his seemingly heroic actions in the Third Crusade, but he was also a brilliant commander who knew how to achieve victory on the battlefield. His military actions flew in the face of chivalric ideals and his first campaign was marred with controversy: "The sons took up arms against their father at the time when everywhere Christians were laying down their arms in reverence for Easter."

His brutal campaigning was carried out by his trusted commander, Mercadier, who was known for his cruelty: he flayed Richard's killer even after the king had pardoned him with his dying breath. Richard also beheaded thousands of prisoners at the Siege of Acre when negotiations broke down, a black smudge on his heroic reputation.

It wasn't just Richard who flaunted the code – almost every member of the devil's brood strayed from it at some point. Both Henry II and John held Scottish and Welsh hostages – given in good faith they would not be harmed – and had them mutilated and executed in gruesome fashion. Henry the Young King, a man who supposedly embodied the code, laid waste to churches and let his followers run riot when attacking Aquitaine. Chivalry had its place in Medieval courtly romance, but not on the battlefield.

The tenants of Chivalry

- To fear God and maintain His Church
- To serve the liege lord in valour and faith
- To protect the weak and defenceless
- To give succor to widows and orphans
- To refrain from the wanton giving of offence
- To live by honour and for glory
- To despise pecuniary reward
- To fight for the welfare of all
- To obey those placed in authority
- To guard the honour of fellow knights
- To eschew unfairness, meanness and deceit
- To keep faith
- At all times to speak the truth
- To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun
- To respect the honour of women
- Never to refuse a challenge from an equal
- Never to turn the back upon a foe

The Angevin Empire's territories in France – namely Normandy, Aquitaine, Maine, Anjou and Touraine – were a constant problem for the French monarchs

likely being that she was protecting Aquitaine. This powerful asset was Richard's inheritance and she hoped to keep it out of the hands of Henry and Louis.

Many nobles joined the rebel sons' cause, lured with lavish gifts and promises of land and wealth that would be dished out once Henry the Young King claimed the throne. Louis joined their cause and a deal was also struck with King William I of Scotland, who coveted lands in northern England that were promised to the Scottish crown, but not delivered, during the civil war of 1135-53 known as 'the Anarchy'.

> "They hoped to stretch him thin as he could only be in one place at a time"

The rebels tried to use their numbers and geographical location to their advantage. By attacking Henry II's kingdom on multiple fronts, they hoped to stretch him thin as he could only be in one place at a time – but this played directly into one of the king's greatest strengths. After all, he had spent his entire reign, at the expense of neglecting his children, travelling all over his empire. In one instance, he rode from Dol-de-Bretagne to Rouen in two days, a distance of just under 260 kilometres. With an intimate knowledge of his territory, he deployed mercenaries with pinpoint accuracy to combat the rebels and relied on his followers who were loyal to him personally, not his wealth or power. While the Young King, Richard and Louis struggled to make headway against the English castles on the continent, Henry II was smashing the rebel army in England.

A great blow was struck against the rebels when William I and his small band of followers were surprised by a group of English knights and he was taken to England bound to a horse. This humiliation forced the Scots out of the rebellion and allowed Henry to return to Europe and threaten Richard's forces.

Henry, II perhaps seeing his earlier error of judgment, had tried to reason with his sons in the autumn of 1173, offering them land and cash settlements to break off their attacks. These were rejected as the brothers were confident they could take much bigger prizes once their father was defeated. The king later remarked that during the rebellion he had felt like an eagle being pecked to death by his chicks. Throughout the campaign, Henry II kept John close to him, a marked

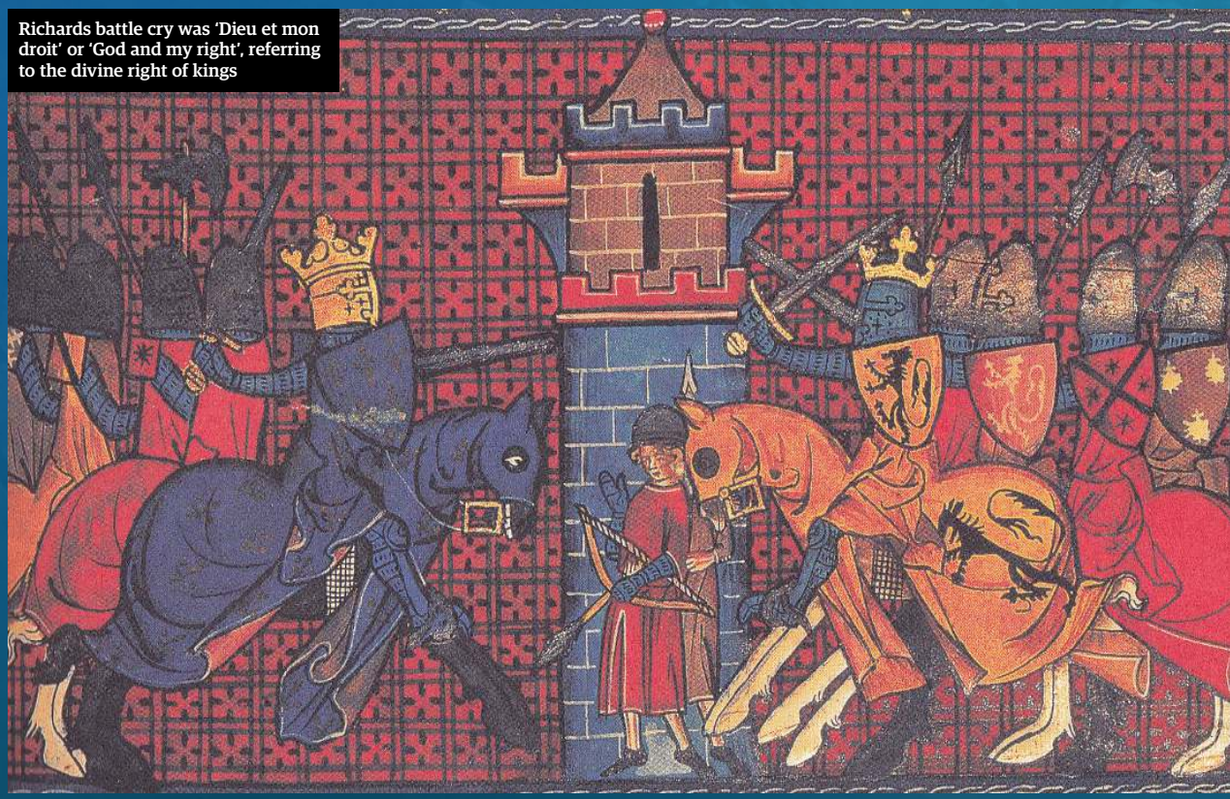
difference from being the absentee father for the sons who were now fighting against him.

Whether or not Henry II experienced any form of parental epiphany, he eventually put down his sons' rebellion. But after being soundly beaten and suitably cowed, Richard and his brothers were still given land holdings and their revenues by their father. These weren't as generous as the terms he had offered near the beginning of the revolt and certainly not substantial enough for any one brother to challenge his authority. Henry was no fool – he saw the need to keep his rebellious children content until he deemed them ready to take on more responsibility.

For the sons, the rebellion was a lesson in patience. They would receive their due inheritance when the king deemed them ready and not a moment sooner. To keep Richard and Geoffrey occupied, they were sent off to stamp out the "hotbed of lawlessness and civil discord" they had helped ferment in their new duchies of Brittany and Aquitaine. The irony of this was probably not lost on Richard, but his suppression of the Aquitaine rebels provided him with land, wealth and an outlet for his more violent tendencies.

Having the full weight of Aquitaine's military forces behind him, Richard set about crushing the remaining rebel strongholds one by one. He won his first siege against the fortress of Castillon-sur-Agen – garrisoned by 30 seasoned knights, it held out for two months before Richard's siege engines could bring it down. It was in the crucible of these suppressions that the young prince would forge his military reputation and win his famous nickname, Lionheart, for his bravery.

Richard I ruled England from 1189 to 1199



Richards battle cry was 'Dieu et mon droit' or 'God and my right', referring to the divine right of kings

A portrait of Richard the Lionheart painted in 1841 by Merry-Joseph Blondel. The king is remembered for his chivalry and military competence

Although successful on the battlefield, Richard developed a somewhat tyrannical reputation from his stern and merciless rule of Aquitaine. So much so that rebellious lords called upon his brothers Henry and Geoffrey to aid in ousting him from his newly won seat of power. With no thought to past allegiances, the two brothers were happy to oblige. But even their combined efforts were not enough, as castle after castle fell to Richard's army, including the supposedly impregnable fortress of Taillebourg. In the face of such a fierce foe, the rebellion was crushed and Henry II intervened to reconcile the quarrelling brothers.

Richard was expected to pay homage to Henry the Young King in the 1180s as their father prepared his heir for taking the throne. But while Richard was now a seasoned campaigner and shrewd politician, Henry, the petulant prince, was still as powerless as he had been in 1173, having spent much of the past decade attending tournaments and revelling in comfort and pageantry. Already having paid homage to the new French king, Philip II, Richard was keen not to upset the status quo and choose a new overlord, so refused to bend the knee to Henry.

Infuriated by this refusal, Henry the Younger raised his forces and hurried to Aquitaine, burning and pillaging as he went. The future of the empire hung in the balance as the two brothers squared off in what looked to be a cataclysmic struggle. Before further bloodshed could occur, however, the Young King caught dysentery and died in the summer of 1183. Heartbroken, Henry II let slip a rare show of affection for his late son and stated, "He has cost me enough, but I wish he had lived to cost me more."

Henry's support for his youngest son would see him make another blunder when he urged Richard, now the next in line to the throne, to transfer Aquitaine in its entirety to John. Now that Richard was his heir, Henry saw it fitting that John, who had gained the nickname Lackland for having no territories at all, should gain Richard's old holdings. This request chafed Richard as he had "given and spent so much money, handed out and taken many a blow, and endured so much hunger and thirst and fatigues" over the duchy that it would be unthinkable to simply roll over and hand it to his younger brother.

Asking for a few days to discuss the matter with his council, Richard immediately raced to Poitiers, the capital of Aquitaine, only pausing to send a message snubbing his father and categorically denying John's claim. This brazen defiance shattered the fragile peace and Henry, enraged at Richard denying his favourite son such a powerful holding, gave John permission to take the lands by force. Enlisting the help of the less than scrupulous Geoffrey, John sent probing raids into Poitou, with Richard repaying in kind by attacking Geoffrey's holdings in Brittany.

In order to placate Richard, Eleanor, who had been held under house arrest in England since the 1173-74 Revolt, was allowed to travel to Aquitaine.

Three lions on a surcoat

Discover the origin of one of England's most enduring symbols

The Royal Arms of England, better know as the three lions, were the royal arms of the Plantagenet kings. They are now synonymous with English sporting pride and repeated world cup hopes, but where did they originate from?

Lions have long been symbols of royal and divine power dating as far back as the Achaemenid Empire, possibly because they could be found roaming in the Mediterranean basin and in parts of the Middle East until the Middle Ages.

The early Plantagenet king Henry I, known as the 'Lion of Justice', would solidify the animal's use as a royal crest with a single lion rampant. This could have stemmed from his love of exotic creatures like lions, leopards, lynxes and camels that he kept in a menagerie at Woodstock Palace.

This symbolism was carried over by Henry II and his son John, who both used two lions on their crest. Richard the Lionheart, living up to his name, would be the first king to use the three lions on a red background, first appearing on his royal seal in 1195. Being formalised as the royal crest, the three lions adopted by the kings and queens of England and are still featured on the modern royal coat of arms today.

The Angevin Empire

Richard was to inherit a vast kingdom

01 Promised land

William the Lion, seeing an opportunity to reclaim lands promised to Scotland, invaded England in support of Richard and Henry the Young King. After failing to take Berwick, he was captured by a large group of English knights. His journey south was humiliating as he was tied to a horse – a very undignified way for a king to travel.

02 Siege and desist

The duchy of Aquitaine was home to the fortress of Taillebourg, thought to be impregnable. Richard knew that his siege engines would make little impact on the vast fortification and so lured the garrison into sallying out of the gates. Once outside, he rushed into the castle and quickly overwhelmed its defenders. This would solidify his reputation as a master of siegecraft.

03 Spread thin

The revolt against Henry II began in Brittany at the same time that Scottish forces crossed the border near Berwick. This attempt to split Henry II's attention across his kingdom backfired when he dispatched groups of battle-hardened mercenaries to deal with the uprisings.

04 French support

Louis VII of France would support Richard and Henry the Younger's rebellion against their father, even going so far as to make a royal seal that the Young King used to buy the loyalty of rebel nobles. His son, Philip II, would continue to try and win back French lands from the English.

05 A long way

Famous for his ability to travel great distances over his domain, Henry II crossed almost the entire length of his duchy of Normandy in two days. In later life, his legs would become bowed due to spending most of his life in a saddle.

06 Sinking defeat

The English rebels, led by the Earl of Leicester, let their Flemish mercenaries ravage East Anglia, prompting a flood of support for Henry II. The rebel barons were defeated and the raiders drowned in the surrounding marshes.

07 Backing down

The town of Châteauroux was almost the site of a titanic battle between Henry II, Richard and Philip II. King Henry, although no stranger to war, had never fought a pitched battle in his life and backed down at the last minute. As the nobility on both sides knew each other personally, it is unknown if they would have ever actually fought one another.

08 Trying to flee

Eleanor of Aquitaine was captured after fleeing from Henry II's Brabançon mercenaries disguised in male clothing. After she was imprisoned in England, Richard took control of the rebellion in Poitou.

09 In return

The county of Toulouse had been a point of contention between Henry II and Louis VII ever since the former had taken the land by force. Louis looked to claim the valuable province back when he offered to support Richard and Henry the Young King's rebellion against their father.

Along with Henry II, they became its joint rulers, Richard's pride was saved and he begrudgingly shared its power for a time.

Geoffrey's death in 1186 set the scene for his father's downfall. Geoffrey had secured a friendship with King Philip II of France, and Richard followed suit. Some modern scholars have questioned Richard's sexuality due to his friendship with Philip, which is said to have involved the pair sharing the same dish at dinner and the same bed at night. But sharing a bed with a member of the same sex was fairly common diplomatic gesture in the 12th century. Henry II and William Marshal, the greatest knight in Europe during his lifetime, had also done so, and it showed trust and status between two people.

A new alliance cemented, Richard and Philip squared up against Henry, who had further angered the French king by essentially holding Alice, Philip's sister, hostage. Henry had dragged his feet about formally arranging her union with Richard, and by keeping her at court, he prevented Philip from using her to secure further alliances against him. There were also whispers that Henry had taken Alice as his mistress – if true, this would have been another source of contention between Henry and Richard, as the latter, humiliated, would never consent to marry his father's paramour.

Richard's reputation as a just warrior would be taken to new heights in the 19th century, solidifying his legend

Richard's last quarrel with his father would prove too much for the ageing king. The capture of Jerusalem by the Muslim leader Saladin sent shock waves throughout the Christian world. Richard immediately 'took the cross', a promise that he would embark on a crusade to win the city back for God. He was the first noble north of the Alps to do so, and the fact that he didn't confer with his father beforehand enraged Henry.

The king was also worried by Richard's close alliance with Philip, and Henry's refusal to see Richard's barons pay homage to him was seen as a step to disinherit the Lionheart and raise John to become the heir apparent. Henry further demanded that Alice marry John instead of Richard as promised, although he knew that this would be unacceptable to both Richard and Philip. The former could have sensed the danger to his claim to the throne and countered that he would only go on a crusade if John would accompany him. The brothers' history of conflict and family strife left little love and trust between them – Richard wanted to keep John close.

As negotiations broke down, warfare between father and son became inevitable. Henry, exhausted from a life spent in the saddle, became increasingly ill and, as a result, Richard and Philip's attacks against his possessions were met with success after success. The final straw was when Henry, already weak, heard that his beloved John had gone over to his brother's camp as soon as it became clear that Richard had the upper hand in the fighting. This betrayal proved too much, and in the summer of 1189 Henry II passed away just after offering an almost unconditional surrender to Richard.

> "Richard and Philip's attacks against his possessions were met with success"

The reason for John's sudden change of heart is unknown but, as the Angevins had shown time and time again, the chance for personal gain and power overruled any familial loyalty. Stories circulated that when Richard visited his father's body, a trickle of blood ran from the corpse's nose, possibly indicating that Richard was responsible for Henry's demise or that even in death, the Lionheart could still cause his father distress.

Richard now stood to inherit his father's kingdom. Succession was rarely a smooth process under the Norman and Angevin monarchs, with William the Conqueror only taking the throne after a bloody battle at Hastings and Henry II himself coming to power after the prolonged chaos of the Anarchy in 1163. The fact that Richard's coronation was unopposed and seemingly a time of celebration implies his nobles were suitably pacified.

Now king of England, Richard the Lionheart was free to pursue his crusading ambitions. His early life had transformed him into a powerful military figure, well versed in warfare and celebrated throughout Europe for his courage and bravery. His father, while ruthless and lacking affection, had given Richard the tools necessary for maintaining and ruling a vast empire. But his conflicts with his brothers and their soured relationships would come back to haunt him.

Only one man, William Marshal, was ever said to have been able to unhorse Richard in a joust

A manuscript illumination of Richard the Lionheart from circa 1460

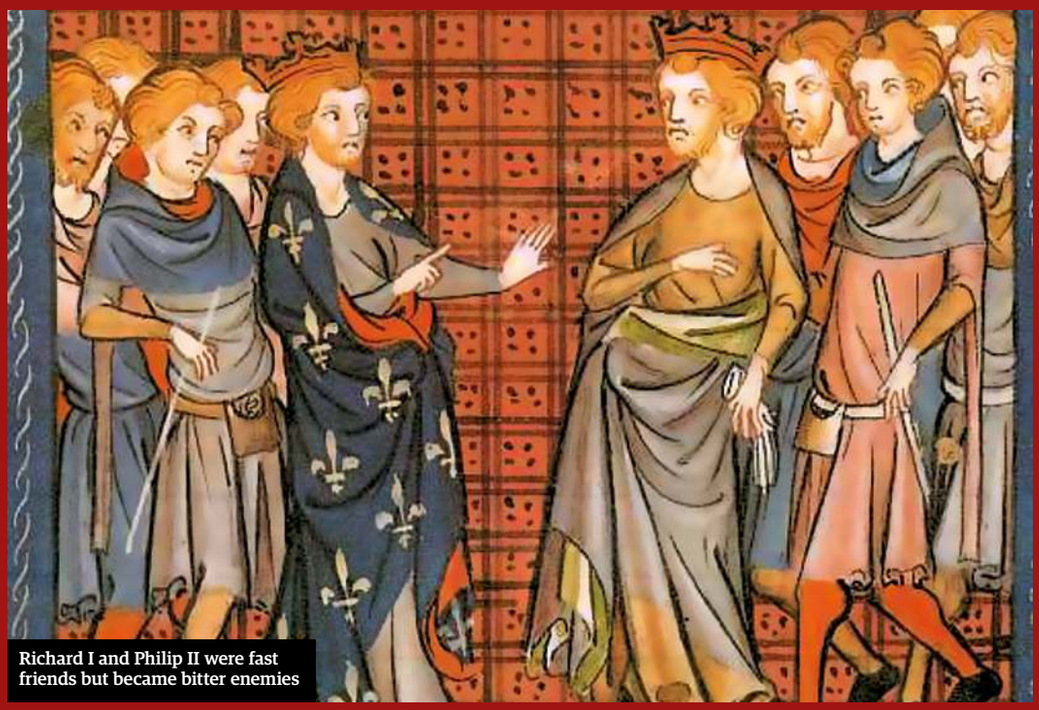
Royal rage

Henry II and his sons were known for throwing tantrums

With family infighting being almost a hobby for the Angevins, it's not surprising to learn that many of them possessed fiery tempers. These short fuses often saw peace talks descend into nothing more than shouting matches. One such meeting between Henry II, Richard and Philip of France got so heated that their retainers went for their weapons before reason prevailed.

Henry II was famous for losing his rag and was known to fly into fits of rage at the drop of a hat. The mere mention of King William the Lion of Scotland, a constant thorn in the king's side, was enough to make Henry throw a tantrum: "The king, enflamed with his customary fury, threw the cap from his head, untied his belt, hurled his mantle and other garments from him, removed the silk coverlet from the bed with his own hand and began to chew the straw of the bedding."

His favourite son, John, was cut from the same cloth and, although he refrained from nibbling on his bed, a disagreement with his chancellor saw him mirror his father: "[John] was more angry, his whole body was unrecognisable. Rage furrowed his brow, his eyes glowed with flame, his rosy face became livid; I know what would have become of the chancellor if he had fallen like a ripe apple into those gesticulating hands in the hour of his anger."



Richard I and Philip II were fast friends but became bitter enemies

©Getty Images, Rex/Shutterstock, nicholas Foster, Kym Winters

Time Traveller's Handbook

YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION

China has been ruled by the Han dynasty for almost 400 years but the golden age is over. In the capital of Luoyang, the central government is weak and corrupt. Emperor Ling has been on the throne for 16 years but would rather spend time with his concubines than run the country – instead, the palace eunuchs plot against the bureaucrats and sell government positions to enrich themselves. Two years of drought followed by one of flooding have led to widespread famine. Many see this as a sign that the emperor has lost his 'Mandate from Heaven'.

Meanwhile, in the northeast of the country, a Daoist faith healer called Zhang Jue is leading a rebellion. His followers wear yellow headscarves, or turbans, to signify that the 'Blue Age' of the Han dynasty is over and a new 'Yellow Age' has begun.

FIG.01

WHERE TO STAY

The capital city of Luoyang is too dangerous right now. Paranoid officials will seize any strange outsiders and arrest them as spies or insurgents. But the provincial cities are even worse – you risk being recruited to fight against the rebels by local commanders, or caught up in a siege when they attack. Your best bet is to hide out in the smaller villages in the rebel-held provinces in the northwest of the country. Julu County (now Pingxiang in Hebei province) is the birthplace of the Yellow Turban leadership, but it isn't strategically important by itself so it won't be targeted by imperial forces.

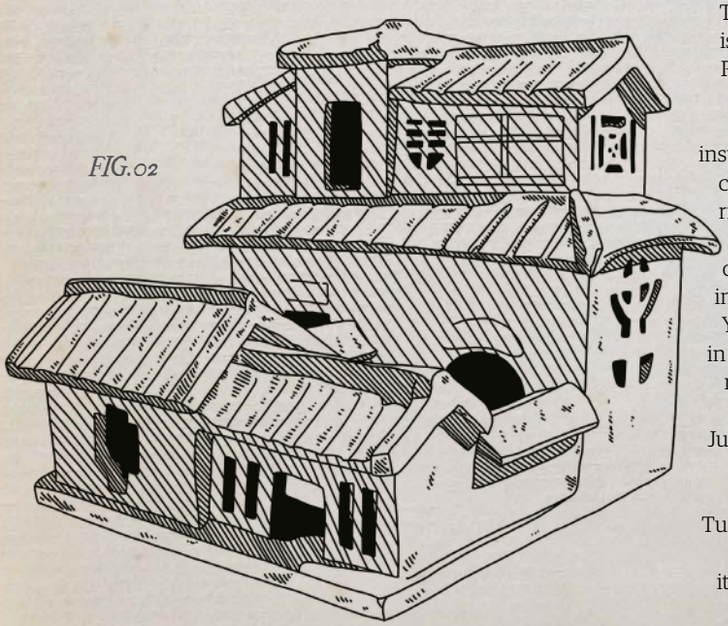


FIG.02

Dos & don'ts

✓ **Adopt a pet cat.** There will be a widespread outbreak of plague in 185, so keeping down the rat population near you is essential to avoid contagion.

✓ **Keep a pig.** Pork is extremely important to the Chinese diet – pig breeders and butchers have high social status. General He Jin comes from a family of butchers.

✓ **Avoid Wan.** The capital of Nanyang is currently a rebel base. There is fierce fighting there now and imperial troops will soon massacre the revolutionaries.

✓ **Bring a facemask.** Imperial Han troops use chariots with bellows that pump calcium oxide powder at the enemy – an early form of chemical weapon!

✗ **Open a shop.** State-registered merchants are considered social parasites and beneath contempt. They must wear white clothes by law so everyone can recognise them.

✗ **Become a eunuch.** Although they currently have huge power within the imperial palace, things are about to change and the Confucians will execute 2,000 eunuchs in 189.

✗ **Pay a Daoist.** The Yellow Turban Daoists follow many of the teachings of the Five Pecks of Rice movement. Leaders only accept rice from their followers, not money.

✗ **Wear red.** In the Han dynasty, red is the colour of the fire element and is worn by members of court – particularly red socks or shoes.

WHO TO BEFRIEND

Zhang Jue

With China in the middle of a civil war, you are inevitably going to have to choose sides. Although the Yellow Turban Rebellion will eventually be crushed, for now they have the upper hand and their leader, Zhang Jue, is a powerful and charismatic general. Originally a faith healer, he has made himself popular by travelling from village to village, healing the sick for free. Now he has styled himself the 'Heavenly General' and, together with his brothers Zhang Bao and Zhang Liang, he is fighting against the incompetent government and the heavy taxation faced by peasant farmers.

Extra tip: The Zhang brothers preach a form of Daoism that uses the confession of sins to heal sickness. They also believe that there will be an apocalyptic change in the current world order at the start of the new year. Learning the Daoist chants and teachings will be crucial to fit in.

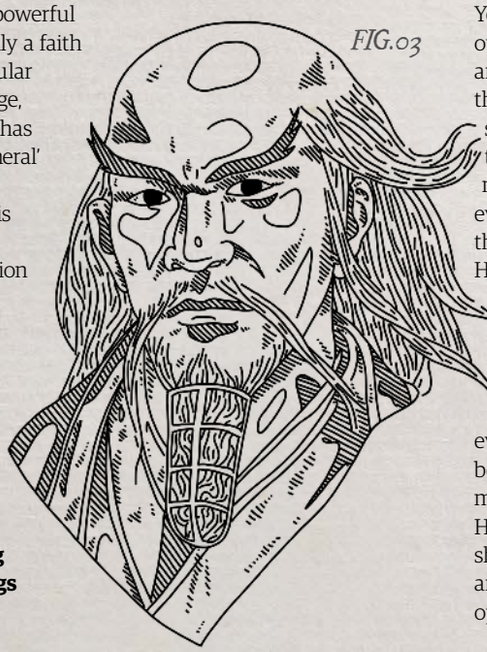


FIG.03

WHO TO AVOID

He Jin

The half-brother of the emperor's consort, He Jin is an ambitious social climber and got himself promoted to general-in-chief as soon as the Yellow Turban Rebellion broke out. He has dispatched an army to each of the three main rebel strongholds and they are recruiting more soldiers from every settlement they pass through. He Jin is personally taking care of the defence of Luoyang and he is so determined to protect the city that even political prisoners are being released from jail to man the city's walls. He Jin is a shrewd general and ruthless opponent.

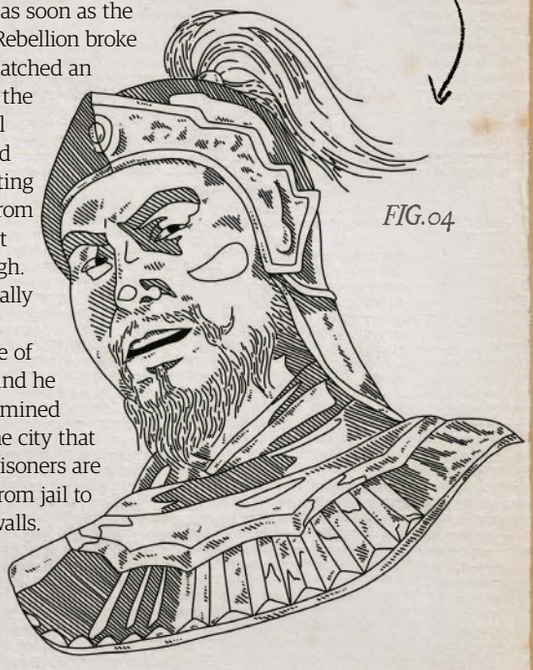


FIG.04

Helpful skills

With revolution brewing, you'll want to make yourself useful no matter which side you choose

FIG.05

Farming

Peasant farmers are the most respected of the working classes. Despite this, inheritance laws and high taxes mean that most of them are penniless. It's an easy role to play.

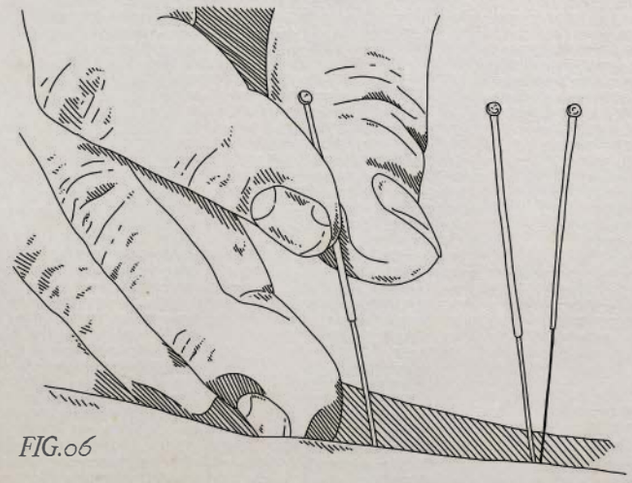


FIG.06

Healing

The Yellow Turban leaders are Daoist healers. Knowledge of acupuncture and moxibustion (burning dried mugwort on the body) will let you pass yourself off as a travelling faith healer like Zhang Jue.

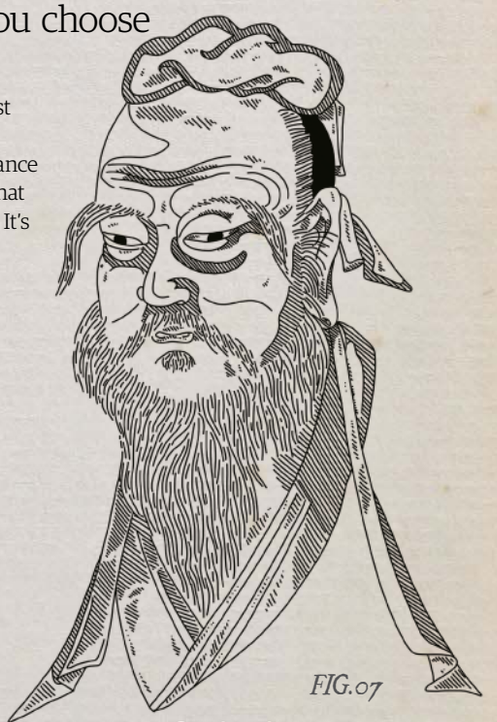


FIG.07

Confucianism

Government positions require a thorough knowledge of the principles of Confucianism. Studying the Five Classics that form the traditional canon at this time could be handy if you switch sides.

A contemporary engraving of the doomed expedition weathering a gale in an ice pack

EXPEDITION TIMELINE

From the expedition's hopeful inception to its disastrous disappearance

DECEMBER 1844

At the instigation of Sir John Barrow, second secretary to the Admiralty until 1845, a new expedition is mounted to map the Northwest Passage once and for all.

JANUARY 1845

Despite Admiralty misgivings regarding Franklin's age, he is given the commission to lead the search for the Northwest Passage after Captain James Ross declines the offer.

MAY 1845

Days before setting sail, Franklin, recovering from a bout of flu, remonstrates with his wife for placing an embroidered silk Union Jack over his body while in bed. He declared it a bad omen.

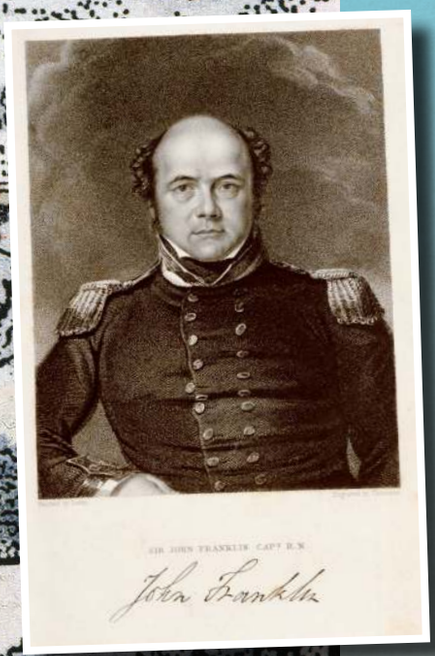
19 MAY 1845

HMS Erebus and HMS Terror set off from Greenhithe, Kent. They sail for the Orkney Islands taking the North Sea route. Franklin is well regarded as a captain by the officers and crew alike.

TERROR ON THE ICE

How an obsession with finding the fabled Northwest Passage through the Arctic doomed John Franklin and his 128 men

Written by Martyn Conterio



"Inspirited by this wind of promise, my daydreams become more fervent and vivid. I try in vain to be persuaded that the pole is the seat of frost and desolation; it ever presents itself to my imagination as the region of beauty and delight." These are the words of Robert Walton, a fictional explorer in Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*, but they could be the remembrances of a real-life navigator as so many have obsessed over finding a route through the Arctic Ocean. Unfortunately, this did not end well for John Franklin, who learnt the hard way that the pole truly is a seat of frost and desolation in 1845.

Over the years, this quest to find the fabled Northwest Passage – as the route through the Arctic is known – frustrated famed explorers including Francis Drake, Francisco de Ulloa, Martin Frobisher, Henry Hudson and James Cook. But in the 19th century, with better scientific and geographic knowledge, the search was taken up in earnest with over 65 expeditions to the region, compared with only nine in the 1700s and 21 in the 1600s. The Russians, Norwegians and Swedes all sought to find a way through the ice, but arguably none were more obsessed with doing so than the British.

The Northwest Passage held such an allure because it would dramatically shorten the time it would take to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The only existing options – going around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa or Cape Horn in Chile – could take several weeks and meant passing through treacherous waters. Finding a trade route through the Arctic waters would give sailors a huge commercial advantage.

The driving force behind British Arctic exploration was John Barrow, who was second secretary to the Admiralty from 1808 to 1845. The son of a Cumbrian tanner, Barrow had worked his way into the senior naval position – earning himself a baronet along the way – by proving himself a skilled administrator during the Napoleonic Wars. After France was defeated, he was

JUNE 1845
From Stromness, Orkney, the two vessels head out across the North Atlantic to Disko Bay, Greenland. They are accompanied by Barretto Junior, a transport ship carrying provisions for the teams on board.

LATE JULY 1845
At Disko Bay, the Barretto Junior's crew slaughter ten oxen for their meat. Letters are written by officers and sent back with the ship. Five crew, unfit for the journey, return to the United Kingdom as well.

JANUARY 1846
The expedition lands at Beechey Island for the winter, where three crew die. William Braine, John Torrington and John Hartnell are buried in neatly made graves that are discovered in 1850.

12 SEPTEMBER 1846
Erebus and Terror leave Beechey Island and set off across Peel Sound and down the west coast of King William Island. They are trapped in ice for two winters.

22 APRIL 1848
The ships are abandoned, having been stuck since September 1846. The ice fails to melt to free the vessels the previous summer.

26 APRIL 1848
The remaining crew plan to set off for the mouth of the Back River, which would lead to a Hudson's Bay Company outpost over 1,500 kilometres away. They have no chance.

Some of Franklin's men died by their boats from hunger, exhaustion or the cold. Others passed away in their tents

charged with finding a peacetime purpose for the large number of ships and officers the British Navy had amassed.

Barrow sent the navy north to map every inlet of the Canadian Arctic, with the first expeditions setting off in 1818 – the same year Mary Shelley published *Frankenstein*. Over the next 27 years, naval explorers made several unsuccessful attempts to solve the enigma of the Northwest Passage, but they did build up detailed maps of many miles of Arctic coastline. Armed with these charts, Barrow was certain the route would soon be within their reach. In an 1844 letter to Lord Harrington, first lord of the Admiralty, Barrow opined, "The discovery, or rather the completion of the discovery, of a passage [...] ought not to be abandoned, after so much has been done, and so little now remains to be done."

Barrow decided to mount a major expedition deep into the Arctic Circle. Captain John Franklin was chosen to lead the voyage - but only after several candidates were either ruled out or declined. Franklin was 59 years old and had been retired for 18 years, having served as governor of sunny Tasmania for the last seven. However, in his prime, he had been to the Arctic three times and was a deeply respected explorer. He achieved nationwide fame after his first expedition, in which half of his crew died of starvation, earning him the nickname 'the man who ate his boots' after he was forced to literally eat boot leather to stay alive.

Franklin proposed to tackle the passage via Cape Walker and Bank's Island. If that proved impossible, he would head north through the Wellington Channel and go north of the Barrow Strait (named in honour of John Barrow). In May 1845, he set off with a 128-man crew and two ships: HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. While these were warships, they had been adapted for polar exploration for James Clark Ross' expeditions to Antarctica in 1840.

"THEY SHOULD HAVE HAD ENOUGH PROVISIONS TO LAST SEVEN YEARS"

Both vessels had 25-centimetre belts of timber, sheet iron on their bows to cut through sea ice and to take the strain of being trapped in it, and beams protecting the hull. They also benefitted from tubular boilers and steam apparatus, which provided hot water and heating. A 25-horsepower locomotive engine was fitted into the Erebus, purchased from the London and Greenwich Railway, and Terror was fitted with a 20-horsepower engine.

Erebus and Terror boasted a library of 2,900 books and journals between them, while their food stores were packed with 15,099 kilograms of tinned meat, 4,036 kilograms of preserved vegetables and 11,628 litres of concentrated soup. They also housed 4,286 kilograms of chocolate, 3,215 kilograms of tobacco, 910 litres of wine and 4,218 kilograms of lemon juice to fight scurvy. They should have had enough provisions to last seven years.

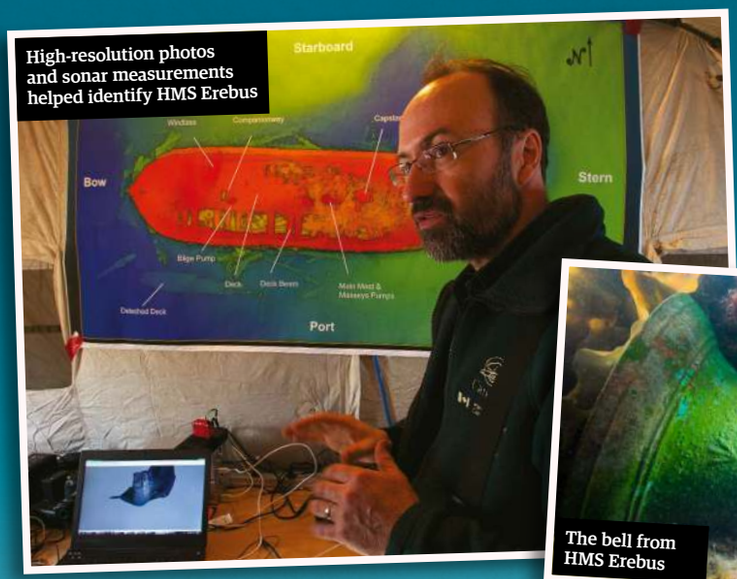
On 12 May, the ships were towed down the Thames from Woolwich to Greenhithe, Kent, where final preparations were undertaken and gunpowder and magnetic instruments were brought aboard. The departure date was 15 May but they were delayed. On 19 May, the screw steamer HMS Rattler finally towed the ships into the North Sea.

On 25 June, they crossed the Arctic Circle and arrived in the Whale Fish Islands off western Greenland five days later. Anchored in Baffin Bay, they took on even more provisions, transferred from the supply ship Barretto Junior, which put Erebus and Terror significantly overweight. Two British whalers encountered the ships, still in Baffin Bay but preparing to head east into Lancaster Sound, on 26 July. They were the last Europeans to ever see the explorers alive.

When a year passed and there was no word from Franklin, the Admiralty were initially unconcerned. They believed the lack of communication meant success as the captain had told them to only expect him back when provisions had been exhausted. By 1847, the Admiralty were sending communiqués to Hudson's Bay Company traders and whaling ships to keep an eye out for signs of the Franklin expedition. Others back home were growing concerned, but the Admiralty refused to act. In March 1848, they eventually offered 100 guineas to any whalers with news to share regarding Erebus and Terror. Franklin's wife, Jane, too, had drummed up £2,000 reward money for information.

Ross was issued orders on 9 May 1848, to find out what had become of the expedition. He would take off in HMS Enterprise for Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait and the Wellington Channel, sea ice permitted. HMS Investigator, the other ship in the search party, would go and look for Franklin along the Boothia Peninsula and Prince Regent Inlet.

Ross' team arrived in the Whale Fish Islands and discovered that Baffin Bay was impenetrable due



High-resolution photos and sonar measurements helped identify HMS Erebus

The bell from HMS Erebus

to sea ice and no crossing could be performed. In late August they reached Baffin Island, yet their progression was hindered further by sea ice. Ross had been exceedingly optimistic in his plans, but now he was faced with diminishing food stocks. The ships turned back. When Ross returned to London, he faced severe criticism from the Admiralty and Franklin's widow.

In 1850, the Admiralty offered a £20,000 reward for any private vessel that could offer "efficient assistance" to the Franklin ships. By now they knew that Erebus and Terror would be in danger or succumbed to calamity. When they kicked a host of search and rescue missions into gear, the irony was stinging: more ships were sent out to find Franklin's expedition than had ever embarked on Northwest Passage expeditions.

"Graves, Captain Penny!" cried the messenger. HMS Advance had been searching off Beechey Island when the crewman informed his captain that graves had been discovered on a stretch of land amid the snow and slate ground.

The graves and tombstones were well constructed and proper rites had been followed. Further investigation nearby yielded ropes, cloth, wood and brass bits. The search party was baffled to discover 600 empty tin cans they found filled with pebbles. If their contents had gone bad, why were the tins filled with stones?

On 20 April 1854, Dr John Rae of the Hudson's Bay Company discovered the truth of what had happened to Franklin and his men. At Pelly Bay on the Boothia Peninsula, and much further eastwards at Repulse Bay, Rae met Inuit who said a party of 'Kabloonans' (their word for white people) had starved to death. About 40 men were seen dragging a sledge and boat on King William Sound in spring 1850 and they explained through hand signals that their ships had been crushed by ice. Later in the summer, the Inuit hunters found their bodies scattered – some in a tent, some in the boat, others where they fell from exhaustion and starvation.

To back up their story, the Inuit people had a gold cap band, silver cutlery and Franklin's Hanoverian order of Knighthood in their possession. They admitted to Rae that paper records discovered among the bodies were destroyed. The most gruesome detail was not something Victorian Britain had wished to hear – the survivors had turned to cannibalism, eating the dead to stay alive. Famed novelist Charles Dickens was so offended by the accusation passed on to the Admiralty and newspapers that he referred to the Inuit testimony as the "vague babble of savages".

In 1859, Leopold McClintock of the British Navy returned to England with a firsthand account of the crew's experience. The explorers left notes in a tin container, buried under piles of rocks, known as cairns, on King William Island for others to find – a common practice at the time. The first message, left on 28 May 1847, said the ships had wintered at Beechey Island, but declared "all well".

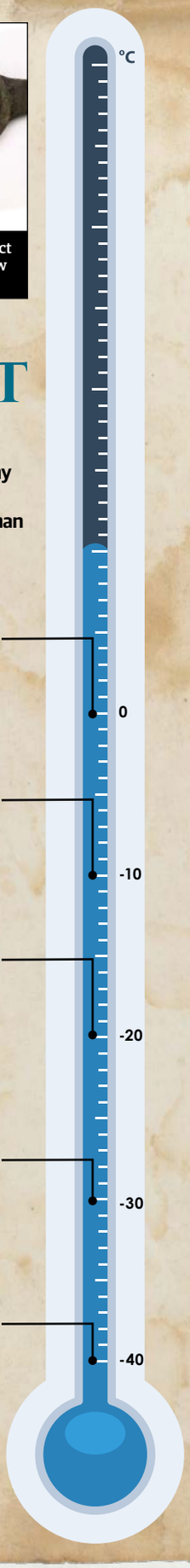
The second message, left on 25 April 1848, was less cheerful. The ships had been trapped in the ice since September 1846 and Franklin had died the following June. The note confirmed 24 other crew

Some personal effects found in the search for Franklin's expedition members

Snow goggles would help protect the face from frostbite and snow blindness

RACE AGAINST DEATH

Frostbite is a common enemy for polar explorers. As temperatures drop, the human body struggles to cope



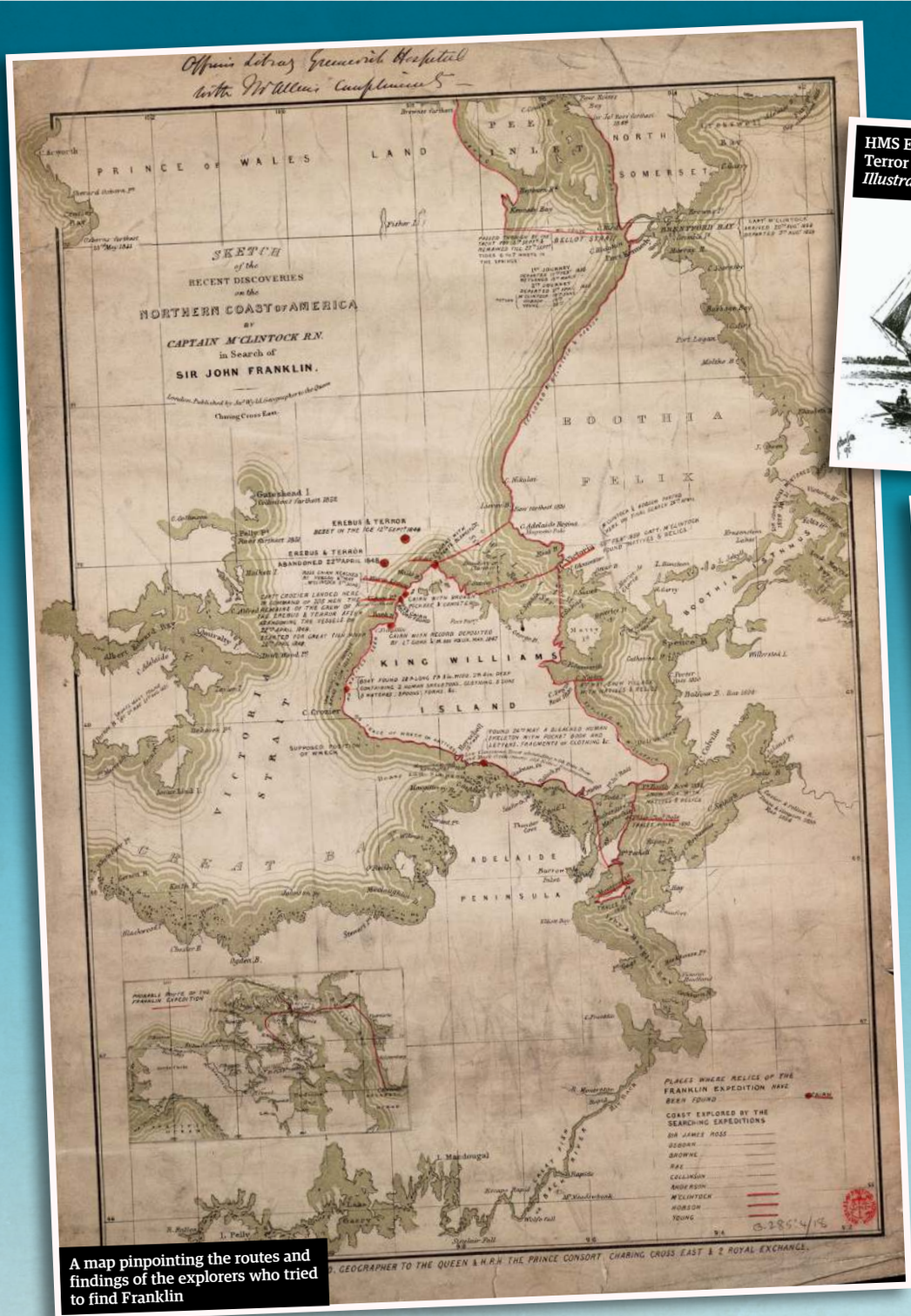
LOW RISK
At this temperature, it'll be nippy out, but the human body can cope if insulated and no skin is exposed. There is a low risk of frostbite or hypothermia.

INCREASED RISK
Exposed skin can freeze within ten to 30 minutes. Frostbite begins with a tingling sensation, which then develops into pins and needles. This stage is known as 'frostnip' or 'superficial frostbite' because it affects top layers of skin.

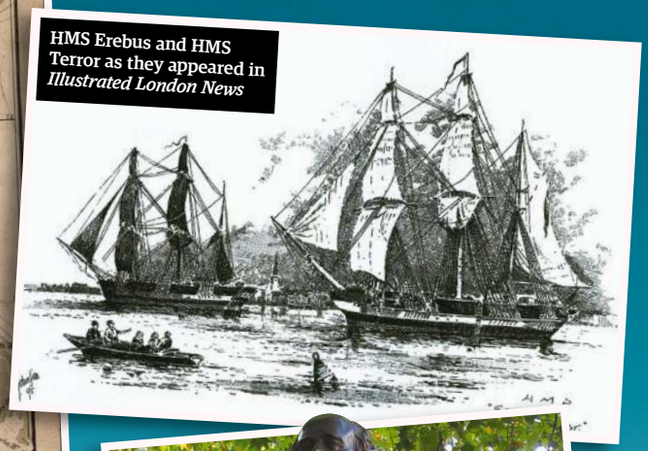
VERY HIGH RISK
Start worrying. At this temperature, frostbite can develop rapidly – within five to ten minutes – and tissue damage becomes increasingly severe. Prolonged exposure to the elements is asking for trouble.

EXTREMELY HIGH RISK
Fingers, hands, noses, toes and ears are the most commonly affected body parts. Frostbite turns skin white and numb as the cold attacks skin tissue and nerves. Skin becomes white and blue as it hardens.

THE FULL WORKS
Frostbite can attack and do irreparable damage to the human body. It can develop in two minutes (wind chill can quicken the ordeal rapidly). Tissue necrosis can occur and affect tendons, muscles and bones.



A map pinpointing the routes and findings of the explorers who tried to find Franklin



HMS Erebus and HMS Terror as they appeared in *Illustrated London News*

The John Franklin statue was erected in Waterloo Place, London, in 1866

members had died and the remaining 105 survivors had resolved to abandon the ships and head south towards Back's Great Fish River.

What exactly happened between the crewmen's last note and when the Inuit met the survivors in 1850 is unclear. However, skeletons dotted along King William Island suggest the men did march south, resting where they fell, weak from hunger, scurvy and the extreme cold. Despite Dickens' reservations, forensic analysis showed that many of the bodies had been eaten by desperate survivors.

But what actually killed Franklin and his men before the ships were abandoned? The carefully tended graves found by HMS Advance at Beechey Island were exhumed in 1984. The bodies of John Torrington, William Braine and John Hartnell underwent a thorough autopsy, their remains remarkably preserved by the permafrost.

Torrington's body in particular suggested that he had been ill for quite some as it was so thin that his ribs were visible, while his lungs indicated that he'd recently had pneumonia. However, analysis of his hair showed signs of lead poisoning. Many believe this can be traced to the tinned food in the stores, but the ships' elaborate heating systems would have used lead pipes, which could have slowly poisoned their water supply. All of this suggests the expedition was doomed from the start.

In *Frankenstein*, Robert Walton eventually decides to abandon his quest for the Northwest Passage rather than risk being destroyed by the ice. Thanks to Franklin and explorers like him, we are not ignorant: the Northwest Passage was found in 1854 and, thanks to sea ice decline, is increasingly used. However, the mystery of what exactly happened to HMS Terror and HMS Erebus endures.

FACES FROM THE PAST

Scientists have been able to reconstruct the faces of remains found at Erebus Bay to identify crew members

Craniofacial reconstruction is where art and forensics meet. Only ever intended as an approximation of an individual, never for positive identification, forensic artist Diana Trepkov worked on several facial reconstructions using oil-based clay, frontal and lateral radiographs, skulls and a collection of bones taken from the memorial cairn on the south shore of Erebus Bay, southwest of King William Island. She described the process as "75 to 80 per cent science and 20 to 25 per cent artistic ability."

The skulls, in good condition, were identified as belonging to Caucasian and European men aged 18-40. One of the jaws was missing its lower mandible, so a replacement was used. Unlike missing persons or murder victims, whose remains undergo craniofacial reconstruction, the artists working on the Franklin expedition skulls had no photos to base their work on. A few daguerreotype portraits exist, taken of 14 officers before the trip commenced.

The reconstructed face of cranium #35 resembled Lieutenant Graham Gore, who died before HMS Erebus was abandoned, so it cannot possibly be him. But the skull belonged to a man with a large nose and deep-set eyes. Cranium #80 has been potentially attributed to James Reid, ice master on Erebus, but cannot be conclusively proven. Cranium #80 was that of a man with a narrow nose, high cheekbones and a broad jaw.

Harry Goodsir is one of the crewmen who has been identified through facial reconstruction

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NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM GREENWICH

WIN! Private tour of the *Death in the ice* exhibition with Greenwich overnight stay

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What year did John Franklin set sail to find the Northwest Passage?

A. 1745 **B.** 1845 **C.** 1945

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NOVOTEL HOTELS, SUITES & RESORTS

Death in the ice

Sir John Franklin and his crew were last seen by Europeans in 1845 as they sailed off in ships HMS *Erebus* and *Terror* to find and map the Northwest Passage.

Nothing more was heard from the men and, despite a series of expeditions to find them, their disappearance has remained a mystery. Until now.

In 2014, the wreck of HMS *Erebus* was discovered off the coast of Canada, followed by the discovery of HMS *Terror* in 2016. These are two of the most important archaeological finds in recent history.

On display for the first time

As Parks Canada's Underwater Archaeology Team starts to bring to light the ships and their contents, *Death in the ice* will see some of their discoveries – including personal items, clothing and components of the ships – displayed in Britain for the first time.

Explore the evidence with us as we piece together the mystery of what really happened to those men on their fateful journey. Scrutinise forensic research, inspect objects recovered from the sea and consider the significant Inuit oral testimonies to draw your own conclusions as to what happened.

Your accommodation will be provided by Novotel London Greenwich. Enjoy modern decor and ergonomic comfort with a queen-sized bed, en-suite bath or shower, large, flexible work area and 32-inch LCD TV with free wi-fi access. You can also maintain your exercise regime at their fitness centre and relax in their hammam, plus you will also receive a generous breakfast with a selection of local and international products (novotel.com).

Your prize also includes two hop-on, hop-off River Roamer tickets courtesy of MBNA Thames Clippers (thamesclippers.com).

Death in the ice: The shocking story of Franklin's final expedition is developed by the Canadian Museum of History, in partnership with Parks Canada and with the National Maritime Museum, and in collaboration with the Government of Nunavut and the Inuit Heritage Trust.

One winner will receive a private tour for two people of the exhibition led by one of the curators, an overnight stay at the Novotel London Greenwich with breakfast included, plus a pair of hop-on, hop-off River Roamer tickets from MBNA Thames Clippers. The exhibition tour, hotel stay and Thames Clippers tickets must all be redeemed on the same day, to be arranged with winner once they have been chosen and notified, strictly subject to the curator's availability. If for any reason the curator is unable to deliver the guided tour then an alternative solution will be offered. Exclusion dates apply. Prize cannot be exchanged, sold or transferred. No cash alternative will be offered.

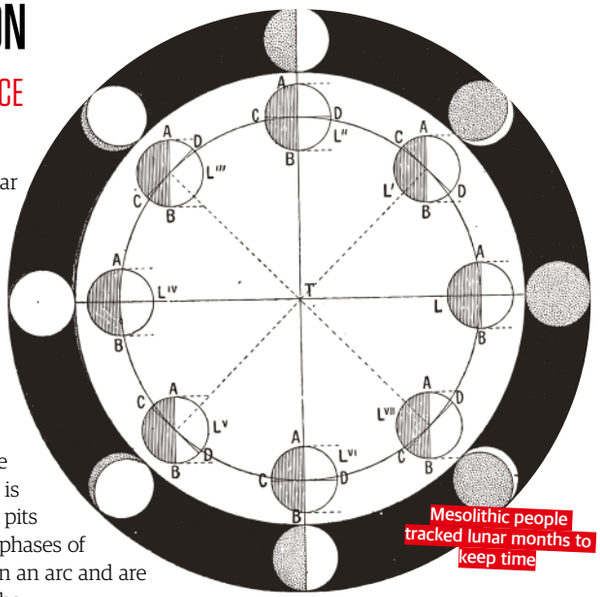
Through History

KEEPING TIME

The human desire to measure the passing of time has seen the invention of an extraordinary array of timepieces, ranging from water clocks to wristwatches

MESOLITHIC MOON CALENDAR C.8000 BCE

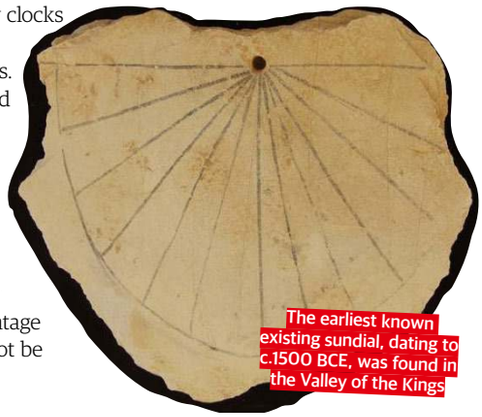
For early hunter-gatherers and farmers, keeping track of the seasons and observing the lunar cycle was of great importance; it helped them predict when game would be available or when crops should be planted. Astrological events might also have been of cultural significance – Stonehenge, for instance, is thought to have been a temple aligned with the movements of the sun. The world's earliest lunar 'calendar' is in Aberdeen and consists of 12 pits shaped to mimic the different phases of the moon. They are arranged in an arc and are structured to track lunar months.



Mesolithic people tracked lunar months to keep time

SUNDIAL C.3500 BCE

The first devices for telling the time of day were shadow clocks – objects like ancient Egyptian obelisks that were etched with markers dividing daytime into precise parts. As the sun cast its shadow on a marker, the time could be estimated. The earliest Egyptian shadow clocks divided the day into 12 main parts. They later evolved into sundials, in which a gnomon or blade casts a shadow onto a flat plate with a line marked for every hour. Their obvious disadvantage is that they cannot be used at night.



The earliest known existing sundial, dating to c.1500 BCE, was found in the Valley of the Kings

The oldest known water clock was found in the tomb of Pharaoh Amenhotep III

WATER CLOCK C.1500 BCE

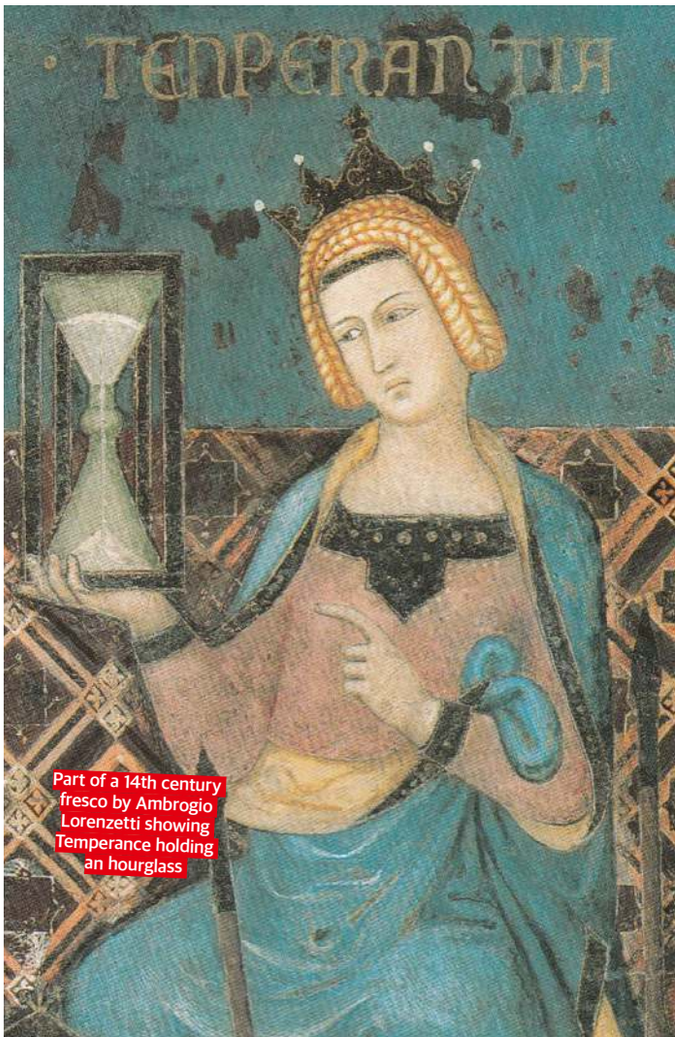
A water clock – or clepsydra, from the Greek for 'water thief' – is a device that measures time by the regulated flow of liquid from a vessel. Although less accurate than sundials, water clocks can be used at night and indoors. A simple example would be a bowl with holes in the bottom and markers on the side. It was floated on water and as it filled, the time elapsed could be measured. The earliest examples come from Egypt, but they were also used in Ancient Greece, Rome, Persia and China.

HOURGLASS 1300S

While the accuracy of water clocks could be affected by changes in temperature and water pressure, hourglasses or 'sand clocks' were more robust. Still familiar to us today, these devices – which generally used less abrasive powders than sand – were particularly useful to mariners as they were the most reliable way of measuring time at sea and calculating longitude for centuries. Simple and relatively inexpensive, they had a variety of uses from timing church sermons to cooking. Although there is a representation of one from Ancient Rome, this is disputed and they do not seem to have been common in Europe until the 14th century.

Christiaan Huygens
1629-95, DUTCH

This astronomer, mathematician and scientist invented the pendulum clock and developed a balance spring watch. As well as writing about horology, he also came up with the first mathematical theory of light, correctly deduced that Saturn had rings, and made an accurate estimate of the day length on Mars.



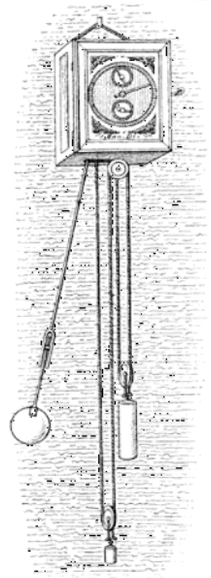
Part of a 14th century fresco by Ambrogio Lorenzetti showing Temperance holding an hourglass

Salisbury Cathedral clock dates from around 1386 and was one of the earliest mechanical clocks

MECHANICAL CLOCK 1300S

The first mechanical clocks seem to have appeared in Europe by the early 1300s. They were controlled by a verge escapement, where essentially a gearwheel looking rather like a crown is driven by weights – a way of transferring energy from the power source to the counting mechanism. A clock in the tower of the palace chapel of Milan's Visconti dynasty is often considered to be the first such device. There was a celebrated type of mechanical clock at St Albans Abbey, dating to around 1327, but it was destroyed in the Reformation.

Christiaan Huygens' first pendulum clock revolutionised timekeeping

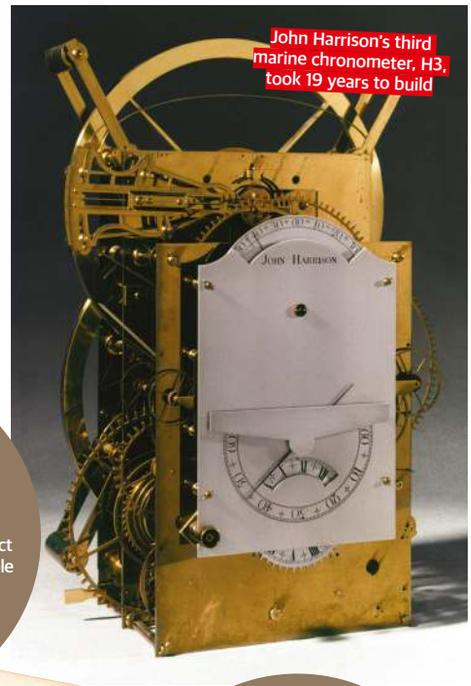


PENDULUM CLOCK 1656

The first pendulum clock was created by a Dutch scientist, Christiaan Huygens, although the idea originally came from famed astronomer Galileo Galilei, who had realised that pendulums made good timekeepers. The invention enormously increased the accuracy of clocks and the technology was rapidly perfected. A typical model had a pendulum that took one second to make a swing and the mechanism was contained in a long case, creating the typical 'grandfather' clock. Their greater precision allowed for the addition of minute hands, which had previously been unknown on domestic clocks.

MARINE CHRONOMETER 1735-61

In order to navigate accurately on a long voyage, mariners need to determine their latitude and longitude – and for the latter they need to know the time. However, the available timepieces were not sufficiently precise, especially out on rolling seas. A chronometer measures the time at a fixed location such as Greenwich Mean Time, so by working out the time difference between this and the ship's position, a seafarer could determine longitude. John Harrison famously invented the true marine chronometer, with a range of increasingly sophisticated devices that revolutionised maritime navigation.



John Harrison's third marine chronometer, H3, took 19 years to build

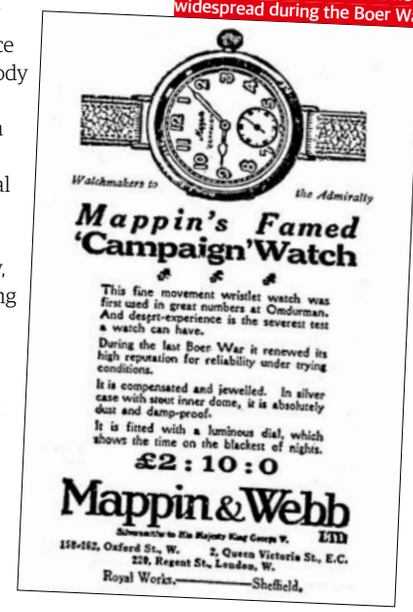
John Harrison
1693-1776, ENGLISH
This Lincolnshire carpenter and clockmaker made his first longcase clock in 1713. When the British government passed the Longitude Act in 1714 and offered a prize for a reliable method of determining longitude, Harrison set about devising the marine chronometer. He spent most of his life solving the problem.

Thomas Tompion
1639-1713, ENGLISH
A blacksmith's son, Tompion became apprenticed to a London clockmaker. One of his early patrons was scientist Robert Hooke who brought new technology and Tompion created some of the first watches with balance springs. Buried in Westminster Abbey, he is known as the father of English clockmaking.

WRISTWATCH C.1511

The invention of the first timepiece carried on the body is attributed to a clockmaker from Nuremberg who made ornamental pendant 'clock-watches'. In the mid-17th century, the balance spring or 'hairspring' was introduced, improving accuracy. During the reign of Charles II, men began using pocket watches that they carried in their waistcoats. Functional wristwatches appeared in the 19th century. Some say the first wristwatch was created for the Queen of Naples in 1810, others say Patak Philippe made the first in 1868 for a Hungarian countess. However, Robert Dudley gave Elizabeth I a decorative arm watch in 1571.

Wristwatches had practical advantages for the military and devices like this became widespread during the Boer War



© Alamy, Apple

The familiar digital alarm clock was unknown until the 1950s

DIGITAL ALARM CLOCK 1956

For centuries, clocks indicated the time by the use of rotating hands, but digital clocks use numbers (also known as 'digits'). Digital alarm clocks first appeared in the middle of the 20th century after American inventor Donald Protzmann filed a patent for one in 1956. Of course, electronic displays didn't arrive until the 1970s and 80s, so these early digital clocks had a mechanism that turned panels to display the numbers. Alarm clocks, though, can trace their history back to Ancient Greece where the philosopher Plato is said to have invented a water alarm clock that whistled when it was time to get up.

SMARTWATCH 2000

Smartwatches arguably have their roots in the innovations of the 1980s, such as the Casio calculator watch and the Seiko D409, which had a built-in display to watch television on. In 2000, Dr Steve Mann – known as 'the father of wearable computing' – took this concept one step further, integrating in a Linux-powered computer into a wristwatch. Modern smartwatches, which can make phone calls, receive texts, monitor your fitness and more, found commercial success from 2014 when Apple, Google and Samsung all launched their own consumer models.

The Apple Watch can do a lot more than tell the time

The Other Mozart

Even while on tour with a hectic schedule, the children would find time to fit in their daily practice

The Other Mozart

Mozart is a household name, a legend in the realm of music and beyond – but in the 18th century there was not one but two Mozarts who rocked the world with their talents

Written by Frances White

In 1829, the English author Mary Novello visited the ageing Maria Anna Mozart, sister of the celebrated composer. She was shocked by what she found – not only was the old woman blind, but she was living what appeared to be an impoverished life. Feeble, exhausted and barely able to speak, the lonely woman was a sad sight to behold. That same year, Maria Anna died aged 78 and was buried in her birthplace of Salzburg, Austria. However, Novello had been wrong. Looks can be deceiving: the old woman was not impoverished, she left a large fortune behind, but had chosen to live frugally.

Very few people truly knew Maria Anna or the life she had led, for much of it had been in the shadow of her brother. Even today we don't know the extent of her talents as, like most female musicians from the past, her work was not recorded and she herself was never given the chance to thrive. What could have been for the old, blind, feeble woman will never truly be known, but the role she played in her brother's life, hailed as one of the greatest masters of all time, is a truly remarkable – if seldom told – tale.

Maria Anna, better known by the affectionate nickname Nannerl, was born in the summer of 1751 to Anna Maria and Leopold Mozart. Her mother had certainly not led an easy life as her family had fallen into poverty when she was young and was forced to live on a charity pension. Anna Maria was also constantly ill. Although she had attracted Leopold with her beauty, the marriage was plagued by misfortune, and they sadly lost five children in infancy. It is perhaps due to this difficult life that she was so willing to submit to her husband's strict regime.

Leopold was not an easy husband to live with and certainly not an easy-going father. Headstrong, determined and stubborn, he had disobeyed his mother's wishes of entering the priesthood so that he could pursue a life of music as a violinist and organist. This decision to chase his dream estranged him from his mother, but it made him all the more determined to succeed. Many biographers emphasise the impact Nannerl's father had upon her, but it was the combination of her parents – a ruthlessly ambitious father and a mother willing to let him do anything – that would shape her life.

When a young Nannerl, aged just seven, sat down before a harpsichord and began to play, she was immediately followed by her younger brother, Wolfgang. The boy was four and a half years younger than her and idolised his sister – Nannerl

was imaginative and kind and Wolfgang adored her. The two invented a secret language only they could speak and daydreamed about an imaginary kingdom called Back, where they ruled together as king and queen.

It only made sense that once Nannerl was old enough to learn to play, Wolfgang would immediately wish to do the same. At the age of just three, Wolfgang was uncommonly young to begin his musical education, but he had the advantage of a sister willing to act as teaching assistant to their father's tutelage, demonstrating and interpreting. Both children quickly excelled.

By 1762, Leopold believed his two little prodigies were ready to work as concert performers and their skills were proven when, during a visit to Vienna, they played for Empress Maria Theresa at the imperial court. Immediately recognising the opportunities his two children presented him and the gimmick of their young ages, Leopold wasted no time and quickly pushed aside his own dreams of success to focus on his children. In 1763, he planned a grand tour that would ensure the siblings and their musical talent would make waves among the most powerful people in Europe.

The Mozart family's grand tour was extensive, lasting three years, with the entire family travelling to the biggest cities in central and western Europe. When Leopold had planned the tour, it was certainly not with monetary gain in mind – in fact, much of the profit made went towards lavish living expenses.

Leopold had something to prove. He wished to make an impact across the continent with his children's talents. He himself had been promoted to deputy Kapellmeister, or conductor, in the orchestra of the Prince-Archbishop of Salzburg, but he would rise no further. He would be ignored and watch others promoted above him for years to come, but it was a sacrifice he was willing to make for he saw something more worthwhile in his son and daughter. As strict and domineering as he was, Leopold was utterly and completely devoted to his children and willing to sacrifice pretty much anything for them.

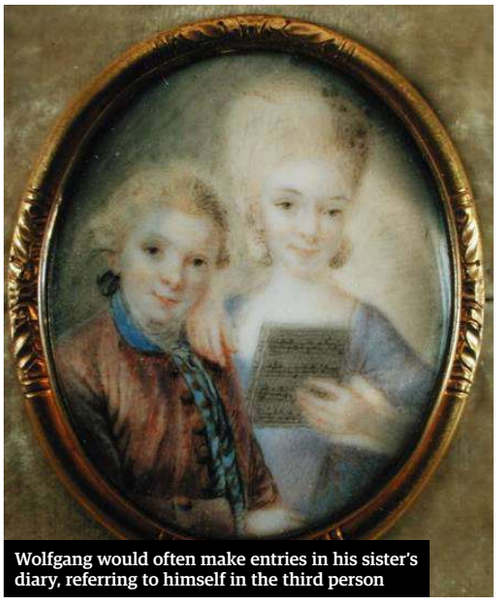
> "She wowed audiences across Europe from Munich to Paris"

For Nannerl, the experience was life-changing, breathtaking and eye-opening. Aged just 11, and a girl at that, she was able to see and experience things that few others would in their entire lifetime. Music had instantly transformed her life and, although her father's schedule was demanding and no doubt exhausting, she adored playing for the princely courts they visited.

Although it is Wolfgang who would no doubt receive top billing today, in much of the contemporary promotion material it was Nannerl who headlined the show. Her skill in playing pieces written by the masters led her to be hailed as "virtuosic", "a prodigy" and a "genius". She wowed audiences across Europe from Munich to Paris, London to Zurich.

This was certainly not a tour for the young Wolfgang on which his sister simply just tagged along. It would have been natural for Wolfgang, the tiny little seven year old in his wig, his short legs barely reaching the pedals, to achieve the most attention, but his sister's skills shone through. As her father wrote, "Nannerl no longer suffers by comparison with the boy, for she plays so beautifully that everyone is talking about her and admiring her execution."

However, there was one key difference between the two: after a childhood spent watching her mother obey her father, Nannerl learnt to be very good at doing what she was told. Wolfgang, on the other hand, was encouraged to create.

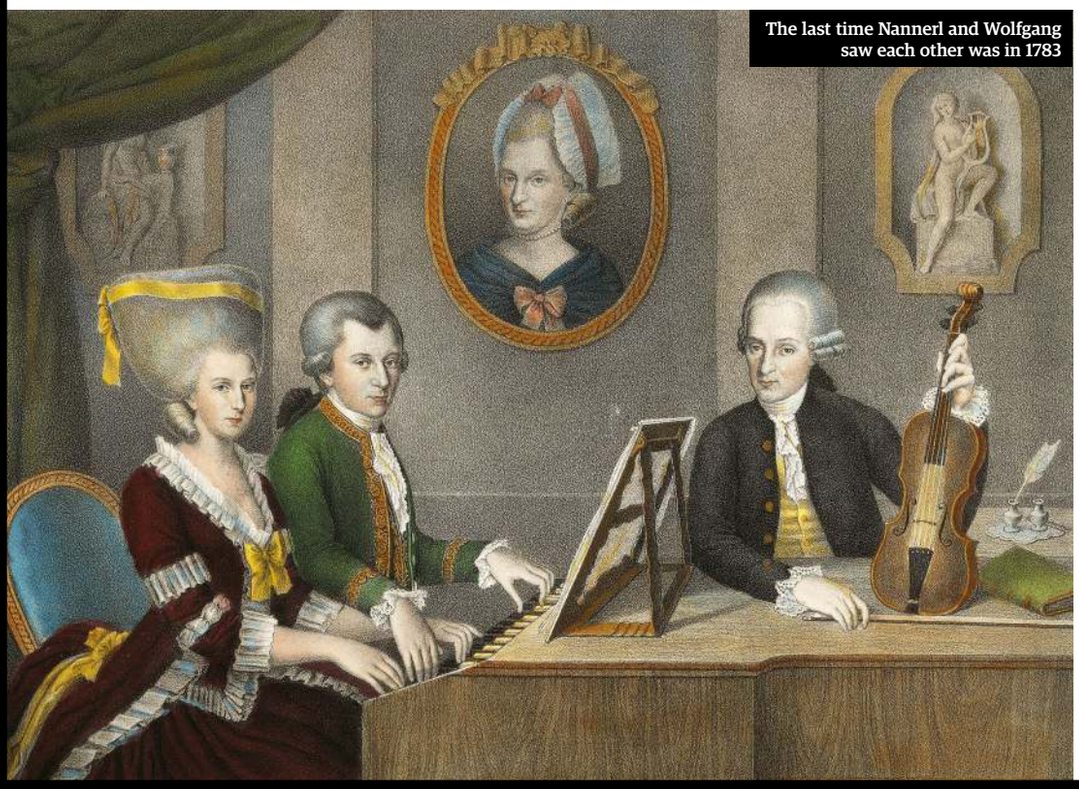

Wolfgang would often make entries in his sister's diary, referring to himself in the third person

While touring just outside London in 1764, Leopold fell ill and the two children were ordered to keep it quiet. Wolfgang took this opportunity to go to his closest companion, his sister, and request she write down his first symphony. Years later, Nannerl would recall that he said, "Remind me to give something good to the horns!"

It is impossible to know if Nannerl simply wrote down what her brother told her to or if she collaborated and offered some ideas. However, it seems unlikely that he would request his sister only to be a quiet scribe. He adored and idolised her. Naturally there may have been some sibling rivalry, but he undoubtedly respected her abilities, so it is not too much of a leap to say that she could have made suggestions.

The piece is ultimately credited to Wolfgang, and it is important to recognise his gift and talents even at so young an age. But it is also inconceivable to ignore the influence and role his sister played in his musical development, especially in his formative years, whether that was as a fellow composer, or simply a source of encouragement during those early years.

Unfortunately, this partnership would experience a sudden and severe fracture. In 1769, Nannerl turned 18, meaning she was of marriageable age, which, as far as her father was concerned, signalled the end of her performing career. One wonders if Leopold would have taken this decision if he did not have her younger brother to focus on, such


The last time Nannerl and Wolfgang saw each other was in 1783

The Other Mozart European Tour

AAA

The Grand Tour

From 1763 to 1766, the Mozart family travelled Europe playing for the most distinguished audiences

The Hague, the Netherlands
Sept 1765- Apr 1766
The Mozarts have been plagued with ill health the whole trip, but while in the Hague, Nannerl's cold turns into typhoid fever and by 21 October it is so severe she is given the last sacrament. She is saved by a fortunate visit by the royal physician.

Frankfurt, Germany
Sept 1763
Leopold begins promoting the children through posters, appealing to the nobility and gentry, but some take on the aspects of a freak show. The age of the children is lowered to make them appear even more impressive than they are.

London, England
Apr 1764-Jul 1765
While Leopold is blighted by illness, Wolfgang busies himself with composition. He writes his first symphony, Symphony No. 1 in E flat major, K16, at only eight years of age.

Paris, France
Nov 1763- Apr 1764
Through a court connection, the family are able to stay at Versailles for two weeks. The queen in particular takes a liking to Wolfgang and allows him to kiss her hand, apparently while she feeds him morsels of food.

Salzburg, Austria
July 1763
The tour gets off to a rocky start when a wheel breaks off the carriage. Leopold decides to take his son to a nearby church, where he plays an organ pedalboard as if he had been playing it for months.

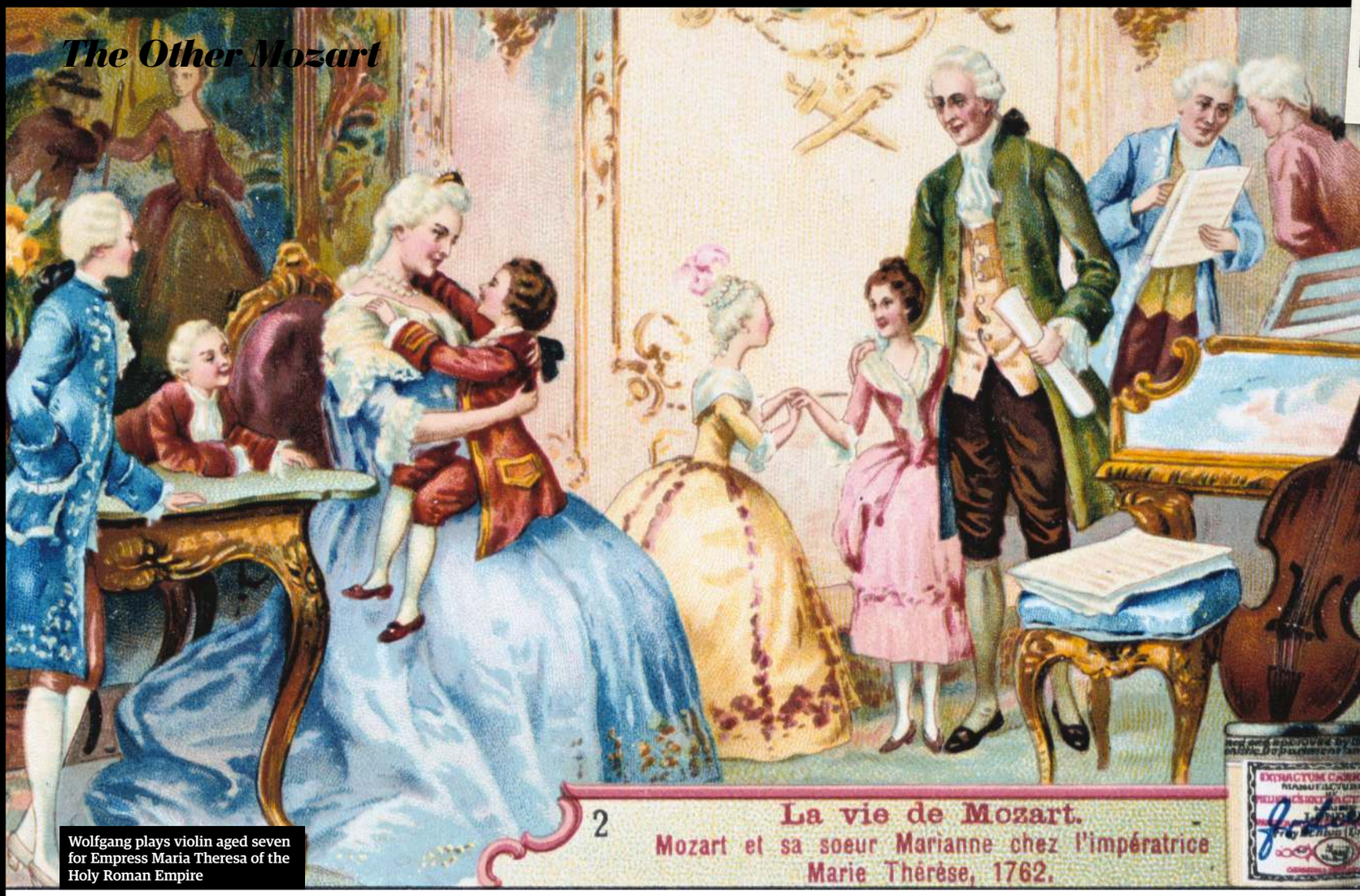
was his dedication to his children's gifts. But the fact is he did, and we will never know how far Nannerl's abilities would have developed had she had the stage to perform them on. As far as society was concerned, it was fine for a little girl to travel and perform, but for a woman it would be scandalous – and Leopold could not risk her ruining the reputation of his prodigious son. As father and son continued to travel Europe and play to distinguished audiences, Nannerl now remained at home with her mother.

Although Nannerl wrote much correspondence, there is no record of her bemoaning this fate or showing any contempt towards her father for it. Not only was she astonishingly obedient, she was a product of her time. This world was not one where women had their own voice; had she fought her father on this issue, the scandal would have been devastating for the family, so the girl whose life had been led by music and travel stopped performing and did as she was told.

It is very clear that Wolfgang missed his sister immensely. Throughout his letters he pines after her, writing "I only wish that my sister were in Rome", and, when waiting for her letters, "I have had an aching feeling, because I have been so long waiting in vain for an answer."

Although they were apart, the strong relationship between the two was obvious. Wolfgang jokingly refers to her as "horseface" and wrote to her with

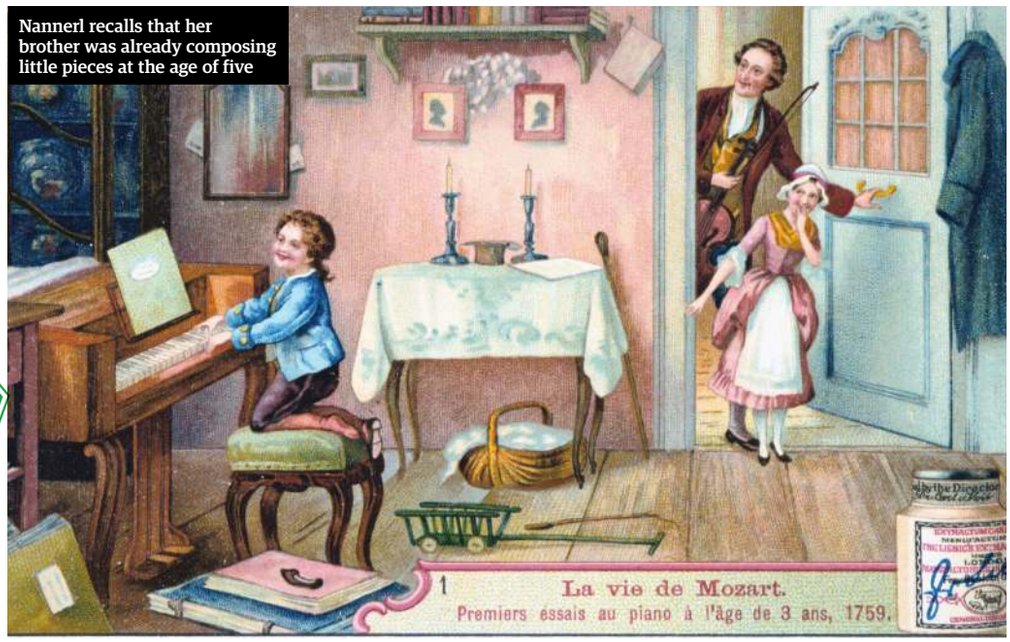
Wolfgang often mocked his sister for her bad singing voice



Wolfgang plays violin aged seven for Empress Maria Theresa of the Holy Roman Empire

the same bawdy humour he shared with his closest companions. Significantly, he sent her compositions and craved her approval, repeatedly demanding her to "tell me quite frankly how you like it" and begging her to write to him, even if she has nothing to say.

Nannerl was forced to watch her younger sibling be praised while she languished, but she appeared to hold no ill will or grudges. Most impressive of all, and a testament to her spirit, is that although the glamour of the stage had been taken from her, Nannerl did not stop indulging in music. Not only did Wolfgang send her a number of works to perform, but there's evidence that she herself wrote her own, as in 1770 he wrote, "I am amazed to find how well you can compose. In a word, the song is beautiful. Try this more often." Enthusiastic, encouraging and thoughtful, Wolfgang was unwilling for Nannerl to lose her connection to the thing that had brought them closer – music. Nannerl, as obliging as she was to her father's wishes, continued to play.

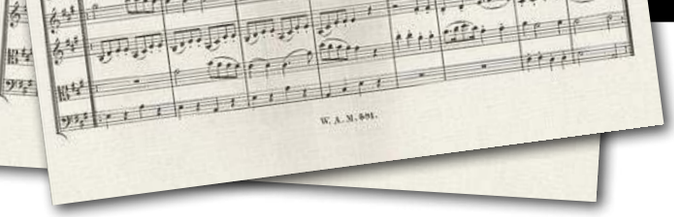


Nannerl recalls that her brother was already composing little pieces at the age of five

Wolfgang, however, was a little too much like his father in one way in particular – his headstrong rebelliousness. Leopold wished for his son to obtain a professional position, something that was especially pertinent when Wolfgang and Maria Anna's mother died in 1778, and the salary would have enabled Nannerl to leave Salzburg. However, he moved to Vienna without a salary in 1781 and married in 1782. Leopold remained in Salzburg with his daughter, and the two of them shared a degree of disillusion in Wolfgang. Nannerl had followed her father's wishes dutifully, but Wolfgang had acted out, and rather selfishly, too.

It became vitally important for Nannerl to find a suitor. She was intensely in love with a man called Franz Armand d'Ippold, but this union came to nothing and instead she married the twice-widowed Johann Baptist von Berchtold zu Sonnenburg, who already had five children from his previous marriages. The reason why the two lovers did not marry is unknown, but a popular theory is that Leopold stopped it. Either he did not approve of the match, or preferred having Nannerl at home as the lady of the house after losing his wife and, for all intents and purposes, his son.

Wolfgang encouraged Nannerl to stand up for her own preference, but she was becoming disenchanted with her rebellious little brother and



became more subordinate to her father. Nannerl did not marry until she was 33, unusually late for the era, and there is no good reason for this: she was clever, talented and well-mannered. So the idea that Leopold didn't want to release his grip on her is not an outrageous one.

Nannerl finally moved out of the family home to Sankt Gilgen, a rural town east of Salzburg, to live with her new husband. Her married life was not an easy one – she had to care for five ill-educated stepchildren and, while her brother achieved fame, she relied on her father's aid. Although it is easy to look on Leopold with scorn, he obviously was greatly committed to his daughter, as he did shopping for her, arranged servants and paid for her brother's music to be sent to her. When she visited him, he collected musicians together so she could play with them and even encouraged her to stand up to her husband.

This close relationship with her father distanced the two siblings further, as Leopold did not at all approve of his son's wife, Constanze. The pair had very little presence in Wolfgang's new life, but Nannerl still requested new pieces from her brother to play. It's thanks to Nannerl preserving this pieces that many of Wolfgang's cadenzas for the piano concertos survive today.

In the summer of 1785, Nannerl gave birth to her first child, a son, who she named after her father. She had travelled home to Salzburg to give birth, and when she returned to Sankt Gilgen she did not bring the boy with her. Leopold wanted to

> "She was becoming disenchanted with her rebellious little brother"

Maria Anna was credited as being particularly good on the harpsichord and the fortepiano

ASK THE EXPERT

Music historian Cliff Eisen warns that we shouldn't overstate Nannerl's influence on her brother's famous compositions

Anyone who reads the news knows that conspiracy theorists – or just plain unjustified revisionists – are plentiful on the ground. They were in the 18th century, too; you don't have to dig particularly deep to find all the evidentially-unsupported arguments about Wolfgang Mozart's premature death on 5 December 1791, which claim that he was poisoned by the Masons for revealing their secrets in *The Magic Flute* or killed out of jealousy by Italian composer Antonio Salieri.

One more recent theory has it that Wolfgang's older sister Nannerl may have composed some short works in a musical notebook that belonged to the family and that was used to teach the young Wolfgang how to play the keyboard. In this way, she may therefore have played some role, or had some influence, on the development of his musical genius.

Martin Jarvis of Charles Darwin University in Australia claimed that some of the pieces in the notebook are in Nannerl Mozart's handwriting – which he believes to have identified for the first time – and that this raises the possibility of her authorship.

Alas, it was established more than 25 years ago that the hand Professor Jarvis identifies as Nannerl's is, in fact, the hand of the Mozart family's regular music copyist in Salzburg, Joseph Richard Estlinger (see the lovely facsimile of the notebook published by the Stiftung Mozarteum in 2010).

What's more, Nannerl's hand could not have been newly identified for the first time – it was already well-known from copies she made in the 1780s of some of Wolfgang's piano concertos that survive in the music collection at Saint Peter's Abbey, Salzburg. It is hard to know what the forensic specialists mentioned by Professor Jarvis might have taken as their baseline comparison if they weren't aware that Nannerl's musical handwriting had already been discovered.

Of course, this doesn't preclude the possibility that Nannerl might have influenced her little brother in some way – but it certainly wouldn't have been compositionally. In a letter from 1778, Leopold Mozart wrote to his son, then travelling to Mannheim and Paris, that he was teaching Nannerl the rudiments of figured bass and that she was making good progress.

Put another way, Nannerl still hadn't mastered the compositional relationship among bass lines, harmonies and melodies in 1778. That being the case, it's pretty unlikely that, in 1760, she could compose even a short, well-rounded minuet.

Cliff Eisen is Professor of Music History at King's College London and the author of numerous books and articles on Mozart, including The Cambridge Mozart Encyclopedia (Cambridge, 2006) and Mozart: A Life In Letters (Penguin, 2006).

WOLFGANG'S WIFE

The disliked woman who helped to secure the famous composer's legacy

Many of Wolfgang Mozart's biographers have little good to say about his wife, Constanze. She is described as dim-witted, flirtatious and a bad influence on her husband. There were many who also held this belief when she was alive – most notably Leopold, and possibly even Nannerl – but this simply was not true.

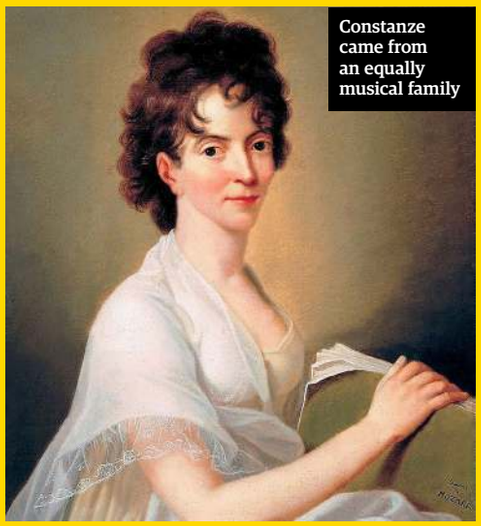
Constanze Weber came from a family of skilled and talented musicians and her father was not only a singing teacher but also a double bass player, copyist and prompter. Her three sisters and herself were all acclaimed, accomplished singers, and the entire family grew up in Mannheim, an important musical centre.

One of the main reasons why Mozart's family were so displeased with the union was because Constanze moved in with her husband before they were married – arrangements that prompted relative scandal – and they were quickly married before Leopold could consent.

Many saw Constanze as a harlot, but in reality she was a sophisticated and shrewd businesswoman. When Mozart fell into debt, she took to action while her husband was away, organising a house move and setting up loans and publications. Not only did her own musical tastes, such as Baroque counterpoint, greatly influence her husband's work, but he also wrote soprano solos intended for her.

Constanze's dedication to her husband did not end with his death. Aged just 29, with a seven-year-old child and four-month-old baby, she set about ensuring her family's stability and her husband's legacy by arranging memorial concerts. These concerts featured a dazzling array of musical greats, including Beethoven himself. She also toured Germany and Austria, performing her husband's work with her acclaimed sister, Aloysia, and support for Mozart's music grew and grew.

Even when Constanze remarried, it was with the spirit of her husband in mind. She and her new husband, Georg Nissen, worked together to publish Mozart's music and create his biography. When Nissen died, Constanze alone marketed and sold the book to publishers, creating not only a considerable fortune for herself but a lasting memorial to her two husbands.



Constanze came from an equally musical family

© Alamy, Getty Images, Thinkstock

The children played for the great and good of European royalty

> "Throughout everything, her love for music had endured"

raise the child himself, first for a few months and then indefinitely. Although the boy's ill health in infancy could account for this, it doesn't explain why he remained there once he got better. It is possible that Leopold saw in his grandson a chance again to harvest musical genius, and he began giving him musical training at a very young age.

It is perhaps indicative of Nannerl's total subordination to her father that she let this happen and saw her son on very few occasions. Wolfgang heard about the arrangement through a mutual acquaintance and, when he asked his father if he could care for his own children while he was on tour, Leopold refused. Leopold recounted this to Nannerl by saying, "He found out that the child is with me, which I'd never told him: so this was how the good idea occurred to him or perhaps his wife. That would certainly not be bad, – They could travel in peace, – could die, – could stay in England, – then I could run after them with the children." Musical genius or not, it was very clear at this point who the favourite child was.

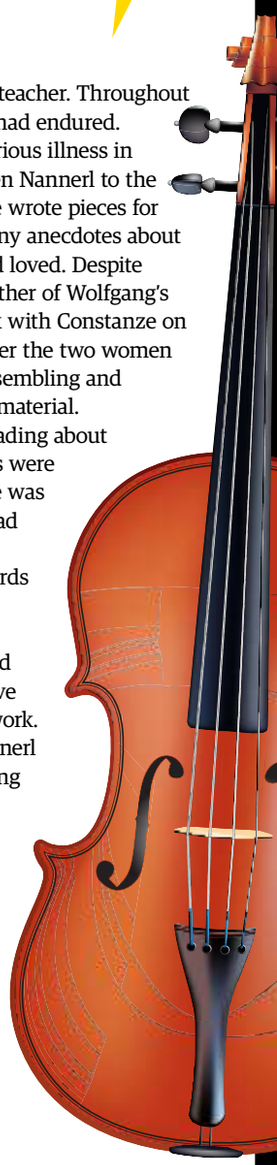
However, Leopold died in 1787 and Nannerl finally had to live her own life without his support. By the time Wolfgang heard of his father's death, he was already buried but, estrangement aside, the passing of such a strong and central figure in their life devastated both siblings. Wolfgang and Nannerl had written countless intimate letters to each other in their youth, but their correspondence now mainly concerned their father's estate and, by 1788, they stopped writing entirely.

In 1801, Nannerl's husband died, and for the first time she was free of the influence and orders of men. She returned to Salzburg with her children and earned a living as a music teacher. Throughout everything, her love for music had endured.

Wolfgang died from a mysterious illness in 1791, and this seemed to awaken Nannerl to the relationship they once had. She wrote pieces for his biography and supplied many anecdotes about the brother she had known and loved. Despite being as disapproving as her father of Wolfgang's wife, she put that aside to work with Constanze on her brother's biography. Together the two women played an enormous part in assembling and handing down musical source material.

She later wrote that when reading about her brother, her sisterly feelings were completely reanimated and she was often reduced to tears at the "sad condition" he found himself in. For Nannerl, her affection towards the little boy who would strive to copy his sister had never truly vanished, and now she did everything she could to preserve his memory and promote his work.

We have much to thank Nannerl for, as it was the period following Wolfgang's death that helped his reputation to grow. She gave over all of her private correspondence in order to see her little brother get the attention he deserved and, most likely, to help her beloved father achieve that which had been his life work – to create a musical legend.



• Salzburg •
ARRIVAL

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The legend of Davy Crockett

Frontiersman David 'Davy' Crockett led the 12-man Tennessee Mounted Volunteers, a group of backwoodsmen charged with defending a low section of the outer wall near the church. Whether Crockett was killed in the church or captured and executed immediately afterwards on Santa Anna's orders remains disputed. Crockett went on to become an American folk hero.

Blasting the doors

The church, which was located in the southeast quadrant, was the strongest building in the three-acre compound. To gain entry, the Mexicans turned a captured 18-pounder cannon on the mission and blasted open its thick double doors.

Alamo's makeover

The Alamo's garrison improved its defences in the months before Santa Anna's army arrived by mounting artillery on the ramparts and constructing infantry obstacles outside the walls, such as sharpened tree branches known as abatis.

Death struggle

Soldiers on both sides fought hand-to-hand inside the compound, barracks and church once the Mexicans had breached the perimeter. They used clubbed muskets, pistols, hatchets and long knives to defend themselves against the attackers.

BATTLE OF THE ALAMO

SAN ANTONIO DE BÉXAR, MEXICAN TEXAS 6 MARCH 1836

Written by William E. Welsh

The Mexican Army's assault on the Mission San Antonio de Valero inadvertently began when an overly enthusiastic soldier shouted in the pre-dawn darkness: "Viva Santa Anna!" The cry spread through the ranks and bugles officially sounded the attack. Bathed in moonlight, 1,000 Mexicans surged towards the old Spanish mission-turned-fort known as the Alamo.

'Santa Anna' was Antonio López de Santa Anna, a Mexican general whose fight for independence from Spain was rewarded when he was elected president in 1833. Unfortunately, what began as a promise to unite the nation soon turned into chaos. During his second year in power, he revoked Mexico's constitution, purged the state militia and crushed all opposition. He then turned his attention north.

A decade before Santa Anna came to power, the Mexican government had allowed Americans to immigrate to the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, and thousands did. However, Santa Anna didn't like the fact that the 'norteamericanos' heavily outnumbered the Mexicans in the state and feared that the US would try to annex it. He deliberately provoked the settlers, known as Texians, into rebellion by demanding they convert to Catholicism, enforcing a previously ignored stipulation in their original immigration contracts.

The first shots of the Texan Revolution were fired in the town of Gonzales on 2 October 1835 when Texians fired on a Mexican force under General Martín de Cos. The Mexicans retreated to San Antonio de Béxar, where the Alamo was located, but the Texians drove them out two months later. Rather than return home, some of the Texians garrisoned the Alamo.

Following de Cos' defeat, Santa Anna led a 6,000-strong army to stamp out the rebellion, besieging the Alamo on 23 February 1836. When the troops there refused to surrender, Santa Anna ordered his men to raise a blood-red flag within sight of the fort. Its message was simple: no quarter.

When Santa Anna arrived, the Alamo's small garrison was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Travis, a Texian army officer. Santa Anna's first move was to have his men dig siege trenches to protect his artillery as it was moved closer to the fort in order to breach or weaken the north wall in preparation for an infantry assault. It was a slow process, but by 5 March they had advanced the guns to within 75 yards of their target. Travis' men did their best to shore up the walls each night.

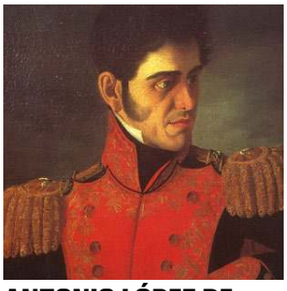
Because he probably feared the arrival of a relief army, Santa Anna issued orders for a pre-dawn assault on 6 March, even though the north wall was still intact. The initial attack stalled due to the fort's defensive fire, but when Santa Anna committed his reinforcements they overpowered the Americans.

Traditional reports hold that no prisoners were taken. However, a contemporary account by Mexican Lieutenant Colonel Enrique de la Peña – a supposed eyewitness – that surfaced more than a century after the battle claims that seven prisoners were taken by Santa Anna and executed by sword. Traditionalists hold that it does not change the fact that all of the defenders were slain that morning.

'Remember the Alamo' became a rallying cry throughout the Texian Army. On 21 April 1836, they won the Battle of San Jacinto, captured Santa Anna and forced him and his troops back across the Rio Grande, assuring Texas' independence.

Mexican Army of Operations

TROOPS 6,000
CANNONS 21



ANTONIO LÓPEZ DE SANTA ANNA

LEADER

A shrewd politician and bold commander steeped in the Napoleonic tradition who excelled at administrative planning and logistics.
Strengths Knew the value of a rapid march and surprise.
Weakness Used terror as a weapon to intimidate the enemy.

PERMANENTES (REGULARS)

KEY UNIT

They possessed an esprit de corps that was an essential quality for assault troops.
Strengths Line troops of various types, including light troops, grenadiers and sappers.
Weakness Lacked skill and proficiency with their rifles.

INDIA PATTERN ENFIELD MUSKET

KEY WEAPON

The .75 calibre Brown Bess had good range and accuracy for a smoothbore musket.
Strengths A robust, durable firearm that could perform well in harsh environments.
Weakness The Mexicans used low-quality gunpowder that compromised the gun's performance.

01 Stretch the defences

Santa Anna's plan to attack the Alamo with 1,700 men in the pre-dawn darkness on 6 March calls for four columns to advance simultaneously against the compound. The columns charge the centre of the north and east walls, as well as the northeastern and southeastern corners.

02 Stalled attack

At 5.30am, Mexican assault troops charge into the teeth of heavy fire from the Texians on the north wall. Although equipped with 28 scaling ladders, they fail to gain the parapet. The Mexicans seek protection directly beneath the wall and exchange fire with the defenders as they mull over their next move.

03 Cannon blasts

American cannoneers on raised platforms fire at close range into the tight ranks of the attackers. Some of the gun crews use langrage — scrap iron that functioned like a canister round — killing and maiming a dozen or more men at a time.

04 Reinforcements to the rescue

Although all four attacks falter in the face of the defenders' well-aimed fire, Santa Anna commits his reserves in an all-out effort to breach the north wall. General Juan Amador, leader of the reinforcements, climbs over the wall with some of his men, one of whom opens a door in the north wall. Mexican troops pour into the compound, forcing the Texians to abandon the walls and retreat to final stands in the church and barracks.

05 Bring your axe

General Martín de Cos' men fan out along the lightly defended west wall, where they use axes to smash their way through doors and windows to gain entry into the compound.

10 Big explosion averted

A group of Mexican soldiers charge up a ramp to the raised artillery platform at the back of the church, where they shoot or stab the artillerymen manning three cannons. They shoot a man who is trying to ignite the fort's gunpowder magazine with a torch.

09 Hand-to-hand combat

Tennessean Davy Crockett orders his men to fall back to the church for a final stand. The defenders inside the building rely on pistols and knives, but they are heavily outnumbered by bayonet-wielding Mexicans who are killing soldiers and civilians alike.

08 Secondary defensive positions

The majority of the Americans retreat to buildings inside the fort, where they take up fortified positions. Colonel Jim Bowie, a gravely ill prominent volunteer, is slain in his sick bed in a room along the south wall. Although Bowie technically outranks Travis, the latter commands Texian regulars rather than volunteers and therefore is the senior commander.

07 Escape attempt

With Mexicans swarming into the compound from multiple directions, approximately 75 defenders flee over the east wall of the fort in a desperate bid to escape certain death. A regiment of mounted lancers stationed to the east systematically run down the enemy, killing them with their lances and sabres. Mounted lancers from other parts of the perimeter arrive to help hunt down the escapees and ensure that they are all caught.

06 Silence the big gun

Colonel Juan Morales leads 100 men who climb the walls at the southwest corner of the compound and capture the fort's only 18-pounder cannon before the Texians can spike it. The bulk of his troops fan out through the southern half of the compound.

Texian Army

TROOPS 189
CANNONS 21

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM B TRAVIS

LEADER

A well-educated lawyer who sought to obtain larger numbers of reinforcements to no avail.

Strengths Diligent, methodical and fearless when faced with overwhelming odds.

Weaknesses Moody, vain and inexperienced in field command.

CROCKETT'S TENNESSEE MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS

KEY UNIT

Their experience on the frontier fighting Indians made them resilient soliders.

Strengths They fought with extraordinary ferocity.

Weaknesses As citizen-soldiers, they were sometimes prone to disobeying commands.

LONG RIFLE

KEY WEAPON

Sharpshooters relied on its superb accuracy to pick off enemy artillerymen during the siege.

Strengths A highly effective long-range rifle.

Weaknesses Slower to reload than a smoothbore musket.

© Alamy, Getty Images, Nicholas Forder

The HOUSE of KIM

In its 70 years of existence, the reclusive dictatorship of North Korea has had only three leaders – all from the same family

The House of Kim

Written by Paul French

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or simply North Korea, was founded in 1948 as a communist state and sponsored by the Soviet Union, who controlled the northern portion of the Korean peninsula after World War II. The American-controlled south saw the formation of the Republic of Korea.

The North, seeking to unify Korea under a one-party Marxist-Leninist government, invaded the South in June 1950. A brutal fratricidal war between the North and South waged for three years until an eventual armistice was achieved, though the war between the Koreas never officially ended. Instead, the peninsula was divided in half by a 250-kilometre (160-mile) long Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). Despite its name, both sides of the DMZ are heavily fortified and the no-man's-land is laden with landmines.

Since then, the North has retreated into total isolation. It's prewar premier, Kim Il-sung, developed a cult of personality as he consolidated his power for both himself and his family, effectively establishing what has become the world's only communist monarchy. Officially, Kim Il-sung is the eternal president of the country, but when he died nearly a quarter of a century ago, the crown passed to his son, Kim 'Dear Leader' Jong-il. In turn, Jong-il's son, Kim Jong-un, has ruled the rogue state since 2016. The extended Kim family controls most aspects of life in the North with top jobs in the ruling Korean Workers' Party, running the economy and leading the army. Now that North Korea claims it has developed nuclear weapons, it will undoubtedly be a Kim who has their finger on the button.

Though the official propaganda may portray the family and its three Supreme Leaders in a glowing light, the Kim dynasty and its two successions have been built on rumours and lies, while their consolidations have seen bitter and deadly battles erupt, leaving a trail of bodies that continues to this day.

Kim Il-Sung: The Eternal President

The obfuscation over the origins and true biographies of the Kim dynasty begin with its founder, Kim Il-sung. Most agree on his birthday, 15 April 1912 (coincidentally the day the Titanic sank), and it is now an annual public holiday in the DPRK, known as the Day of the Sun because 'Il-sung' translates to 'become the sun'. But how did this man rise to become the North's immortal leader of a totalitarian system so all-encompassing that his son and grandson have gone on to take charge of North Korea's 26 million people seemingly – to the North Korean people, at least – without contest?

Kim Il-sung's origin myth lies deep in the forests of Manchuria close to the Chinese border. A year before he was born, Japan had colonised all of Korea and later, in 1932, annexed Manchuria as a colony, too. Indeed, Il-sung largely grew up in Manchuria in what is today's Chinese Jilin province. His family was part of the anti-Japanese resistance, but not the humble peasants of later myth – they were skilled pharmacists. During the Second Sino-Japanese War, which began in 1937, Il-sung led a band of possibly as many as 200 Korean resistance fighters. Though of course later lionised as heroic fighters, it seems they actually spent most of the war isolated and living off the land as best they could.

In December 1941, China became part of the much greater Allied war effort as the Americans and Soviets joined the battle against Japan. This was to change Il-sung's fortunes as his motley band of ill-trained rebels was absorbed into far more highly trained, equipped and politically educated Soviet Red Army partisan training camps. Here, he met a fellow guerrilla and Korean anti-Japanese activist Kim Jong-suk. They married and had two sons – the eldest, Kim Jong-il, was born in 1941, though the fact of his birth being in either China or the Soviet Union is never officially mentioned in the North's propaganda.

His time spent working with the Red Army, organising regular hit-and-run raids against Japanese forces, was key to Il-sung's political development. He became a close student of Soviet communism, particularly of Stalinism, and moved from being an anti-colonial freedom fighter to a hardcore communist.

He also applied the outlook and tactics of the guerrilla fighter to all his endeavours – not just fighting the Japanese, but also in how he began to organise for an independent, socialist Korea. Il-sung was such a good student of communism, that Lavrentiy Beria, Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union, recommended that he be their proxy in Korea. The Hot War was ending and the Cold War about to begin – the Russians were determined that their chosen man would be the post-war leader of a unified Korea and ensure the Americans had no influence on the peninsula.

In 1945, the Japanese surrendered and Korea was divided into Soviet and American controlled halves. The North, under Kim Il-sung but with guidance and permission from Moscow, launched an attack on the South in 1950 and three bitter years of war followed until the armistice and the formal division of the peninsula. Retreating into his new domain – north of the 38th parallel and south of the Yalu River border with China – Il-sung got to work on his two most immediate tasks: destroying his enemies within the fledgling DPRK and building his own personality cult. Both activities were to become family businesses.

Il-sung quickly turned his attention to consolidation – for a Supreme Leader to be truly supreme there could be no opposition. With help from Moscow, he immediately organised Soviet-style show trials for anyone who challenged him for leadership of the North and those who had been guerrilla fighters in the war. Il-sung had to be the only leader, the undisputed anti-Japanese fighter and uncontested head of the Workers' Party. It was a time of dictators – even though Stalin was recently dead in neighbouring Russia, Chairman Mao was assembling his own personality cult in China, too.

Il-sung fostered a cult of personality around himself

But Kim saw himself as greater than Mao or any Soviet leader. He refused to subordinate himself to either the Soviet Union or the newly founded People's Republic of China. He forged his own third way and created his own variant on Marxism – Juche theory – with himself as the only theoretician.

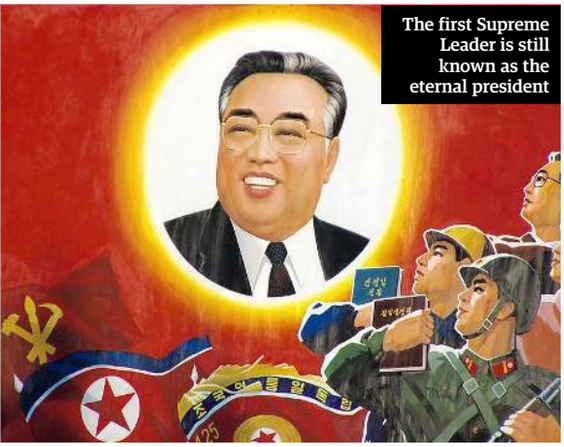
Juche combined Leninism with a little Maoism, a dose of Confucianism and some traditional Korean philosophy all thrown into the ideological pot. Marxism may have positioned him on the red side of the Cold War, but it was the Confucian

Kim Jong-il is still used in propaganda long after his death

elements of Juche that laid the groundwork for his communist monarchy. Confucianism advocated filial piety towards the father and the family – in the DPRK's case, towards the father of the nation and the first family of the one-party state: Il-sung and the Kim clan.

The Supreme Leader was in total charge of the country, his enemies slain, those who knew his true origins purged. The economy might be collapsing and the people starving, but he smiled upon them with benevolence with his eldest son at his side.

A typical example of the sort of propaganda that is still common in the North celebrating the first supreme leader, Kim Il-sung



The first Supreme Leader is still known as the eternal president

The least free state on Earth

Possession of unauthorised information from outside the country

Being found with anything from outside the DPRK, like DVDs, books, magazines and USB sticks of TV programmes, carries harsh punishments, including imprisonment. South Korean materials are the most closely monitored.

Escaping and seeking refuge overseas

It is a crime to try to leave the country and seek refuge elsewhere. Punishments fluctuate but have included execution at times. Most refugees flee across the Yalu River to China hoping to eventually get to South Korea.

Organised political opposition is banned

All organised political opposition is outlawed, including all alternative political parties, any factions within the ruling Korean Workers' Party or even ad hoc movements.

Independent media is illegal

Pyongyang retains complete control of the media – TV, radio, newspapers and all publications, as well as the highly limited internet access a few high-ranking people are allowed.

No independent free trade unions

As with China next door, all trade unions in the DPRK are state sanctioned and under the control of the Workers' Party. This, the leadership hopes, will stop any version of Poland's Solidarity movement in North Korea.

No unauthorised free market activities

Except for a few occasional highly regulated farmers' markets that come and go, all free market activities – such as the buying and selling of food, clothing, cars or property – are banned.

No religious freedom

Though the state has created 'Potemkin' churches to show visitors, in reality there is no religious freedom whatsoever in North Korea according to Human Rights Watch.

The songbun system

This system affects everyone's employment, residence and schooling, as it is the country's socio-political classification scheme that groups people into loyal, wavering or hostile classes. Climbing up the social ladder is almost unheard of.

Kim Jong-il: The Dear Leader

The year 1994 was perhaps the worst for North Koreans since the founding of their nation 45 years previously. The country was ravaged by a tragic famine (the result of a disastrous communist planning system), they were feeling the effects of the now dissolved Soviet Union's 'fraternal aid' being cut off, and, Kim Il-sung, father of the nation, died.

For the first time, Western observers saw the mass outpourings of grief that have become such a hallmark of the subsequent deaths of senior leaders in the North. The entire country – much of it starving and economically on its knees – went into an official Confucian three-year period of national mourning.

During that time, and as expected, Kim Jong-il was declared the 'Dear Leader', charged with following in his father's footsteps. So great were those footsteps that Jong-il was declared the North's number two leader and the deceased Il-sung, now entombed and embalmed in a giant mausoleum in the centre of Pyongyang, was named 'eternal president' – forever the DPRK's Supreme Leader.

Once Il-sung had declared his eldest son as his heir in the 1980s, the personality cult machinery went into full swing and soon there wasn't a single North Korean citizen who did not know Jong-il's official origin story. He was reputedly born on Mount Paektu, Korea's highest and most sacred mountain. As he came into the world, a new star appeared in the sky, a double rainbow appeared, an iceberg on a nearby lake cracked, strange lights filled the sky and a swallow passed by overhead to pass the news of his birth on to the world. The legend went on that a young Jong-il remained by his father's side until the Japanese were defeated, finally expelled from Korea and Pyongyang liberated for a bright, new communist future.

In fact, Jong-il was born in a guerrilla camp and no strange metrological or astronomical incidents were reported. His younger brother drowned in 1947 in a swimming pool accident and many have long believed that the older boy pushed the younger under the water and held him down, but evidence of this is unfounded.

Though Kim's official origin may sound comically bizarre to those outside of the country, it makes more sense in the context of the Korean tradition of deploying mythology as a tool to perpetuate tradition and inspire the population. The story is allegory and is probably understood as such by most ordinary North Koreans, even though it served to raise the stature of Jong-il and perpetuate the personality cult that came to surround him and his family.

Despite the propaganda, Jong-il's reign wasn't guaranteed. The North Korean Army's leadership thought him weak – not a soldier like his father. However, Jong-il had proved he was suitably blood thirsty early on. As a senior official under his father, Jong-il is thought to have ordered the 1983 bombing in Rangoon that killed 17 visiting South Korean officials. Additionally, some high-level defectors have claimed that he ordered the 1987 shooting down of a South Korean airliner that killed all 115 passengers on board.

Kim Jong-il had his own official portraits made when he succeeded his father in 1994

A family portrait of Jong-il with his parents

"You will drown in a sea of flames"

Pueblo incident
23 January 1968
Although outside North Korean waters, USS Pueblo was seized by the North Korean Navy. All 83 crewmembers were captured and one killed, creating a diplomatic incident. The ship remains moored on Pyongyang's Taedong River as a tourist attraction.

The axe murder incident
18 August 1976
US Army officers were cutting down trees in the DMZ when they were attacked by DPRK soldiers. Two Americans were killed by the North Koreans, who oddly claimed that Kim Il-sung had planted the trees.

North Korea's first nuclear test
9 October 2006
Despite the 'Sunshine Policy' from South Korea to defuse tensions on the peninsula and six-party talks involving the North with the South, China, Russia, Japan and the US to seek dialogue, the DPRK exploded a nuclear bomb in direct contravention of international treaties.

Blue House Raid
21 January 1968
This was an attempt by North Korean commandos to assassinate the South Korean president, Park Chung-hee, in his residence, the Blue House in Seoul. It is thought the attack was in response to Park's support of the US in the Vietnam War. 26 South Koreans were killed.

Discovery of incursion tunnels
15 November 1974
South Korean and American forces at the DMZ were shocked to discover four tunnels crossing the zone that had been dug by North Korea. The tunnels were 91 by 121 centimetres, reinforced with concrete and had electric lighting.

Korean Air Flight 858
29 November 1987
Korean Air Flight 858 was a scheduled international passenger flight between Baghdad and Seoul that exploded in mid-air upon the detonation of a bomb planted inside an overhead storage bin by North Korean agents. It was the 34th anniversary of the end of the Korea War, and the attack is thought to have been masterminded by Kim Jong-il himself to derail unification talks.

Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il are still everywhere in North Korea

Jong-il (bottom left) with his family

The Koreans have a proverb: 'Tiger father, dog son'. It was thought to be whispered by some army officers alongside rumours of Jong-il's legendary louche life of massive French Cognac consumption, Hollywood movies and mistresses. Most of those army officers were purged. He also put on more show trials and sentenced executions in the style of his father's reign.

The so-called Dear Leader secured total power. Across the country, statues and posters went up showing the two rulers together and North Koreans pinned the ubiquitous lapel badges featuring the father and son to their clothes – to lose or forget to wear one became a crime. The king and the prince were on every classroom wall, subway carriage, jacket and street poster.

Jong-il had one more plan to consolidate power and ensure no rivals in the army ever rose up and contemplated a coup: nuclear weapons. He tore up every arms control agreement his father had signed and restarted the North's nuclear weapons development programme.

Billions of won (North Korea's currency) were devoted to the project while the country remained hungry in the North's desperate countryside, and power blackouts became more and more common in even privileged Pyongyang. But nukes could give Jong-il total power; they were weapons of mass destruction that he would control and ones that could subordinate the conventional armed forces. The Dear Leader, with his finger on the button, was arguably the deadliest man in the world.

There may be many exaggerations about Kim Jong-il's life, but his fondness for mistresses was a fact. He had a son in 1971, Kim Jong-nam, with Song Hye-rim, a leading North Korean movie actress and beauty. He also had two more sons, Kim Jong-chul in 1981 and Kim Jong-un in 1984, with Ko Yong-hui. Other mistresses followed before he finally married Kim Young-sook, the daughter of a high-ranking Workers' Party leader and Kim clan loyalist.

As was the ancient Korean imperial tradition, the three sons and heirs were brought up separately, rarely – if ever – meeting, and then only at state occasions for a matter of moments. Yet, as Kim Jong-il increasingly became a sick and dying man, it was to be the battle between these three siblings that would almost destroy the monarchy created by his father and lead to exile, feuding and, perhaps, fratricidal murder.

Shakier than you might think

The Kim dynasty projects an aura of total control, but there have been challenges...

The rumours over the years are many and varied: bodyguards-turned-assassins, army generals starting coups and fratricidal in-fighting in the clan. But they have largely been just that – rumours.

Immediately after the cessation of hostilities in 1953, Kim Il-sung showed that he had learned from Stalin by holding a show trial for a dozen party officials accused of aiding the Japanese and plotting to replace him as leader. All 12 were found guilty and executed. Whether there was any truth to their collaboration with the Japanese is questionable. A year later the former leader of the Korean Communist Party in the South moved to the DPRK. He was deemed a possible challenger. A Moscow-style show trial was staged and he, too, was executed.

Rumours have continued to swirl. In the late 1960s, China claimed that Kim Il-sung had been arrested by coup-plotting army generals – it wasn't true. In 1970, several senior army commanders were again purged for opposing the Supreme Leader's policies, while there have long been rumours of a coup attempt in 1992 by Moscow-trained soldiers.

Kim Jong-il has faced challenges, too. Stories circulated of a planned coup by army units in the famine-stricken northeast region in 1995. In 1998, a shoot-out between police and soldiers led to a curfew in Pyongyang in what, it is assumed, was a direct challenge to Jong-il's rule.

Coups fomented from outside are rumoured, too. The George W Bush administration always refused to rule out a pre-emptive strike on the North, while the Pentagon's 'Operational Plan 5030' was designed to use South Korea and American troop operations to diminish the DPRK's resources, wear down their military and promote a coup attempt. But it was never put into action.

And now one more rumour. After purging and executing his own uncle, Kim Jong-un was faced with a possible coup led by his exiled half-brother, Jong-nam. That attempt perhaps ended in Kuala Lumpur International Airport in February.

The North likes to issue dramatic threats, and has done so regularly throughout its seven decades of existence

The sinking of ROKS Cheonan
26 March 2010
This is perhaps the closest the North and South have come to renewed war. The South Korean warship ROKS Cheonan was sunk by an explosion thought to be from the North, though Pyongyang denied it. 104 crewmembers were killed or injured and there were demonstrations of anger and grief in Seoul.

Yeonpyeong Island firefights
23 November 2010
With tensions still high after the ROKS Cheonan sinking, the North deliberately fired at the South-controlled Yeonpyeong Island, killing two South Korean soldiers and two civilians. The South returned fire, killing ten DPRK soldiers. The South evacuated the island for the islanders' own safety.

Drone wars
24 March 2014
The South accused North Korea of flying drones close to the Blue House in Seoul. DPRK drones were shot down at sea, close to the South's capital, and flying across the DMZ to spy on South Korean and American military installations.

DMZ landmines
4 August 2015
Confirmation that the DPRK was planting additional and highly explosive landmines in the DMZ came with the wounding of two South Korean soldiers who stepped on mines. The North denied planting them.

Yeoncheon missile attacks
20 August 2015
In a highly provocative attack, the DPRK fired conventional missiles at the southern city of Yeoncheon, home to 46,000 people. Citizens were evacuated into specially built bunkers, and South Korean artillery fired several times back into the DPRK. High-level talks were convened immediately to de-escalate the tension, though the North failed to explain why they acted as they did.

Anti-ship missiles unveiled
8 June 2017
After several rounds of missile tests that provoked the US 7th Fleet to approach the DPRK's coast, the North fired anti-ship missiles into the Sea of Japan. Pyongyang was particularly unhappy about the US deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile shield around Seoul.

Enjoying the good life in a bad country

While the general population struggles to survive, the North Korean leaders indulge on Western luxuries

$720,000 a year in Cognac

Kim Jong-il was a legendary consumer of Hennessy Paradis Cognac and the brand's largest private buyer

At least a dozen Harleys

Kim Jong-il, and now reportedly his son, Kim Jong-un, have had a long fascination with Harley Davidson motorbikes, although they can only ride them in their high-security compounds

4 packs of Rothmans a day

Kim Jong-il reputedly smoked four packs of imported Rothmans cigarettes a day before publicly quitting. His son, though, is a confirmed smoker, but he smokes a more patriotic copycat version of Rothmans called Paektusan

one Mercedes

Kim Jong-un only has one personal Merc, but it's a limited edition Mercedes-Benz 600 luxury sedan

20 jet skis

Kim Jong-un enjoys jet skiing with his close associates. He is thought to have at least 20 jet skis that he rides around one of his private artificial lakes

Nine white Orlov trotter horses

Kim Jong-un has nine rare white Orlov trotter horses procured from a from a stud farm in Siberia

20,000 movies in his library

Kim Jong-il allowed one channel of TV and no foreign films in his country, yet had a private video library of 20,000 Rambo, James Bond, kung fu and horror movies

Kim Jong-un:

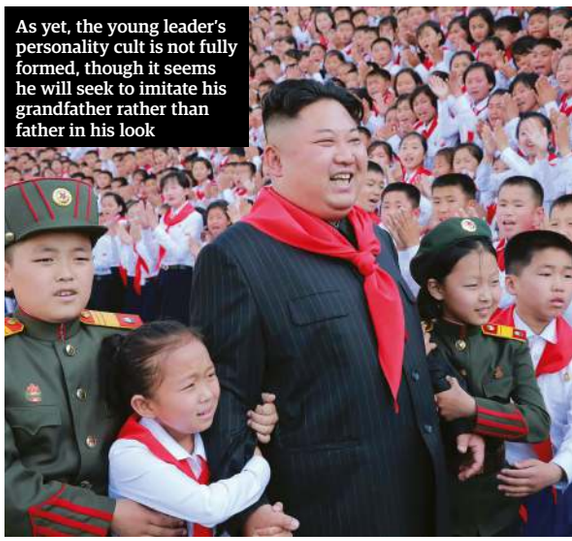
It was never intended, at least not by Kim Jong-il, that his youngest son, Jong-un, would ever rule the DPRK. From the late 1990s, the Dear Leader determined that his eldest Jong-nam, regardless of being born out of wedlock, should continue the Kim dynasty and control North Korea some day. But that decision was taken without considering Jong-nam's suitability or what Jong-il's wife thought of his mistress' child taking the leadership from her own sons. What happened next really does deserve the much-overused epithet of 'Shakespearean'.

In 2001, Jong-nam took his son and mistress to Japan. It was a foolhardy trip – not only is Japan a sworn enemy of the DPRK, but the man touted to be the next leader of the world's most hardline communist state was going to visit an icon of capitalist decadence, Tokyo Disneyland. And all on fake Dominican Republic passports.

He was caught at the airport by Japanese passport control officials. His father was so embarrassed that he cancelled a long-planned trip to the DPRK's only ally, China. Jong-nam was officially in disgrace. He had forfeited the role of heir to the throne and was cast out into exile, moving to anonymity in Macao.

There are those who believe that Jong-il's wife and the DPRK's 'Supreme Mother', Young-sook, was behind Jong-nam's apprehension at Tokyo's Narita Airport. She did not want the offspring of a mistress to usurp her eldest son, and so Jong-chul became the heir apparent, groomed to be leader, seen at his father's side and with Young-sook beaming wide.

But something went wrong and Jong-chul was sidelined. Some said his father thought he lacked the necessary ruthlessness to be a dictator, others that Young-sook had always seen her youngest but most beloved son, Jong-un, as the



As yet, the young leader's personality cult is not fully formed, though it seems he will seek to imitate his grandfather rather than father in his look

The Supreme Leader

Pyongyang residents take part in a rally commemorating the Korean War

Crowds in Pyongyang watch a TV screen showing their new Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un at a Central Committee Meeting

Kim Jong-un oversees a drill of the Korean People's Army

heir. Jong-chul disappeared from the headlines in Pyongyang, his picture stopped appearing and suddenly, beside his now visibly ailing father, was a young man, barely in his 20s – Kim Jong-un.

His years of debauchery finally caught up with him, and Kim Jong-il died in December 2011. Briefly, out of public view, the three brothers paid their respects to their father at the enormous mausoleum where he was enbalmed and placed alongside the eternal president, Kim Il-sung, at the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in central Pyongyang. Jong-nam came back from exile in Macao under Beijing's protection, Jong-chul from internal exile (having recently been seen in Singapore at an Eric Clapton concert), and they stood alongside the new Supreme Leader, 28-year-old Kim Jong-un. They were together for a matter of moments and then Jong-chul disappeared back into his Pyongyang home and Jong-nam flew back to Macao.

The world underestimated Jong-un. He was ridiculed overseas for being too young, too inexperienced and a playboy like his father, who seemed to prefer hob-knobbing with minor basketball celebrities and good living to turning around an ailing economy and isolated country. But Jong-un surprised everyone. Not only has he accelerated the nuclear programme and edged ever closer to a deliverable missile, but he has also managed to slightly rejuvenate the country's economy, too. Alongside all this, he has proved to any who have doubted them his hard man credentials. Arguably, of the three Supreme Leaders of the DPRK, it is Kim Jong-un who has been the most ruthless.

Political purging is now an established tactic of regime survival for the Kim clan, but Jong-un has taken it to new levels of barbarity. Within three years of his rule, he initiated the purging of at least 70 senior officials. And if anyone questioned that he was truly a supreme leader, he shocked even ordinary North Koreans (usually given only the most opaque news of what is happening at the centre) by publicly, on prime time television in the DPRK, having his own uncle and one-time close mentor, arrested.

Jang Song-thaek, the number two leader of North Korea, was arguably the leading male role model in Jong-un's early life, given his own father's distance. But in the end this didn't save him – Jang was accused of treachery and plotting a coup. He endured a show trial and was then summarily executed.

Jang's execution appeared to be the final consolidation of Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un's total power. But perhaps there was one piece of unfinished business that nagged at him, a source of potential opposition, a problem from long ago that could become an issue tomorrow – his disgraced and exiled half-brother, Kim Jong-nam. In February 2017, Jong-nam visited Kuala Lumpur and spent several days there, though it is unclear who he met. He then went to the city's airport to catch a flight back to Macao.

In the departures terminal, two women threw a poisoned towel over his face and killed him. They were caught but knew nothing. A number of North Korean men wanted by Malaysian police disappeared; the DPRK's embassy denied everything and sought to recover Jong-nam's body before an autopsy could be performed. It is very likely that, despite ongoing trials in Kuala Lumpur, nothing will ever be conclusively proved. But if there was anyone who could lead a coup against Jong-un, it was Jong-nam. That option is now gone and Kim Jong-un rules truly supreme.

But what happens next is less clear than ever. Jong-un is 33, married to Ri Sol-ju, the daughter of close Kim dynasty associates, and they are believed – though it has never been formally confirmed – to have had a daughter in 2012 or 2013. Add to the mix the current nuclear sabre-rattling and the line of Kim succession - and the future of the DPRK - is far from certain.

Bluffer's Guide RUSSIA, 15-17 SEPTEMBER 1771

The Moscow Plague Uprising

Timeline

DECEMBER 1770

Dr AF Shafonskiy, chief physician at the Moscow General Hospital, identifies a case of bubonic plague. However, the head of the city's public health ignores him.

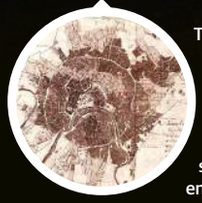
FEBRUARY 1771

An outbreak of plague among cloth mill workers spreads the disease throughout the city, forcing doctors to acknowledge the dangerous contagion.

31 MARCH 1771

Catherine II sends doctors, troops and a senator in an effort to fight the plague. They set up hospitals and carry out medical inspections.

20 AUGUST 1771



The rising death toll convinces Catherine to enact an emergency programme, isolating Moscow so that nobody can enter or leave.

What was it?

In September 1771, Ambrosius, Archbishop of Moscow, declared that the Icon of the Virgin Mary was to be removed from public view. His aim was to stop the spread of bubonic plague among worshippers, which was killing almost 1,000 people a day. However, for the Muscovites that had gathered around the revered artefact believing it had healing powers, this was too much.

While the rich had been able to flee to the countryside, most citizens had been subject to intense quarantine measures since March. Cordons limited routes in and out of the city, stirring up panic and worsening food shortages, and public baths were closed. Worst of all, the homes of the sick were destroyed with no compensation given. This led to citizens hiding dead bodies or dumping them in the street, exacerbating the epidemic.

On 15 September, riots broke out across the city. Crowds of angry citizens descended on Red Square, invaded the Kremlin and destroyed the archbishop's residence. Discovering Ambrosius wasn't there, a mob found him at the Donskoy Monastery and strangled him. It took military reinforcements three days to suppress the uprising.

Why did it happen?

The bubonic plague had moved north from Kiev and reached Moscow as early as Christmas 1770, where it quickly spread among the city's mill workers, who lived and worked in crowded conditions. At least one doctor raised concerns as early as December, but his superiors didn't act until the bodies began to pile up.

When Moscow did eventually report the outbreak to Empress Catherine II in St Petersburg, they downplayed the disease, intentionally never using the word 'plague'. Still Catherine the Great took swift action, dispatching court physicians to assess and treat the illness in March. She also sent Lieutenant General and Senator Peter Eropkin to coordinate public health policies, which included using police forces to assist medical inspectors.

However, Catherine's later decision to quarantine the city in an effort to stop the plague from spreading further stoked fear and resentment among Muscovites, which eventually exploded as public violence.

Who was involved?

Empress Catherine II
2 May 1729 – 17 November 1796
Catherine II championed Enlightenment values while ruling as an autocrat and expanding Russia's borders.

Senator Peter Eropkin
1724 - 1805
The appointed official in charge of fighting the plague from March 1771 and 'saviour' of the city during the September riot.

Count Peter Saltykov
11 December 1698 – 26 December 1772
Though Governor-General of Moscow, he abandoned his post without permission and retired to his country estate.

Did you know?

The final death toll for the epidemic was almost 100,000 people – around a third of the city's entire population.

5 SEPTEMBER 1771

Catherine's man in Moscow, Eropkin, request the end of the quarantine and freedom of movement to try and defuse the growing tension. Catherine refuses.

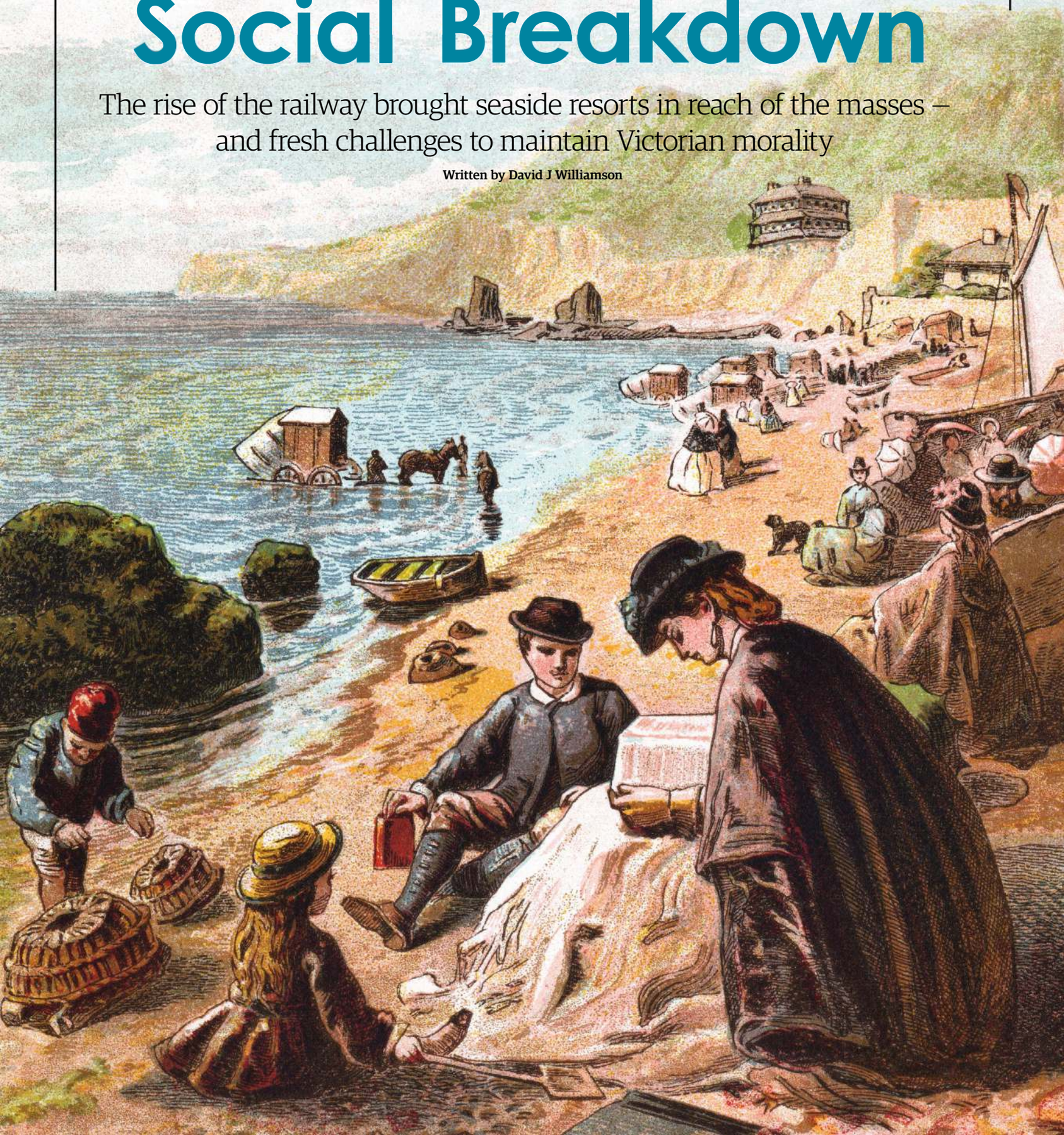
15 SEPTEMBER 1771

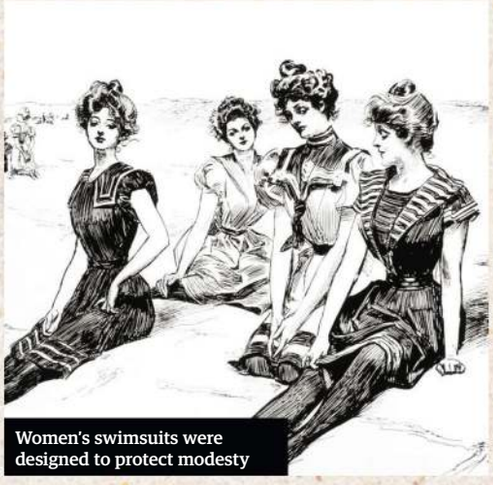
Archbishop Ambrosius's removal of a holy icon from public view sparks days of rioting . An angry mob track the priest down and kill him.

Sun, Sea and Social Breakdown

The rise of the railway brought seaside resorts in reach of the masses – and fresh challenges to maintain Victorian morality

Written by David J Williamson





Women's swimsuits were designed to protect modesty

A photograph of Margate, Kent, taken circa 1900. The Victorian era saw it become home to an amusement park that later evolved into Dreamland, which still stands today

From sandcastles to fish and chips, promenades to pleasure piers, many of the things best associated with a trip to the British seaside have their roots in the Victorian summer holiday. However, while we take these seaside attractions for granted now – even looking back on them as old fashioned – many of them were considered revolutionary at the time, some even an affront to common decency. This led to some puritanical restrictions, but not even Victorian morality could hold back the tide of change that was rolling in.

Peacocking on the prom

Trips to the seaside were nothing new at the beginning of the Victorian era, at least for the upper classes. In fact, 'taking the waters' for your health was so popular during the Georgian period that Jane Austen featured both the spa town of Bath in two of her novels and the coastal town of Lyme Regis in *Persuasion*. As Austen was keen to point out, while these trips were ostensibly about getting fresh air and exercise, they were also often an excuse for high society to mingle and show off. As well as prove that they could afford not to work, they couldalso stay at grand hotels, attend the theatre, and wear the latest fashions at parties.

A classic example of this exhibitionism masquerading as healthy living was promenading. A stroll along the seafront was considered good for the constitution, but a long, level 'prom' or esplanade was also like a public catwalk where you could be 'seen' by society and enjoy admiring glances as you strolled serenely by, decked out in your best attire. Promenading only grew in popularity during the Victorian era, with the first piers being built in the 1850s to give tourists somewhere to stroll as well as to moor ships.

While spa towns like Bath and Harrogate still held their appeal during Queen Victoria's reign, doctors were increasingly recommending trips to seaside resorts. This was mainly because they believed that the bracing sea air contained what they termed as 'ozone' or 'activated oxygen', something that was "very essential but also a preventative of disease and a great aid for the treatment of ailments of all character."

"Coastal towns offered a welcome break from the choking pollution"

Prince Albert, a staunch advocate of science and healthy living, led by example by building a new royal residence by the sea in 1845: Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. The royal family spent many summers from July to August at their palatial holiday home, with Queen Victoria continuing to stay there regularly long after Albert died in 1861.

We now know that the Victorians were quite wrong about the seaside offering so-called activated oxygen. But in an era of rapidly industrialising towns and cities, it's likely that these coastal towns offered a welcome break from the choking pollution.

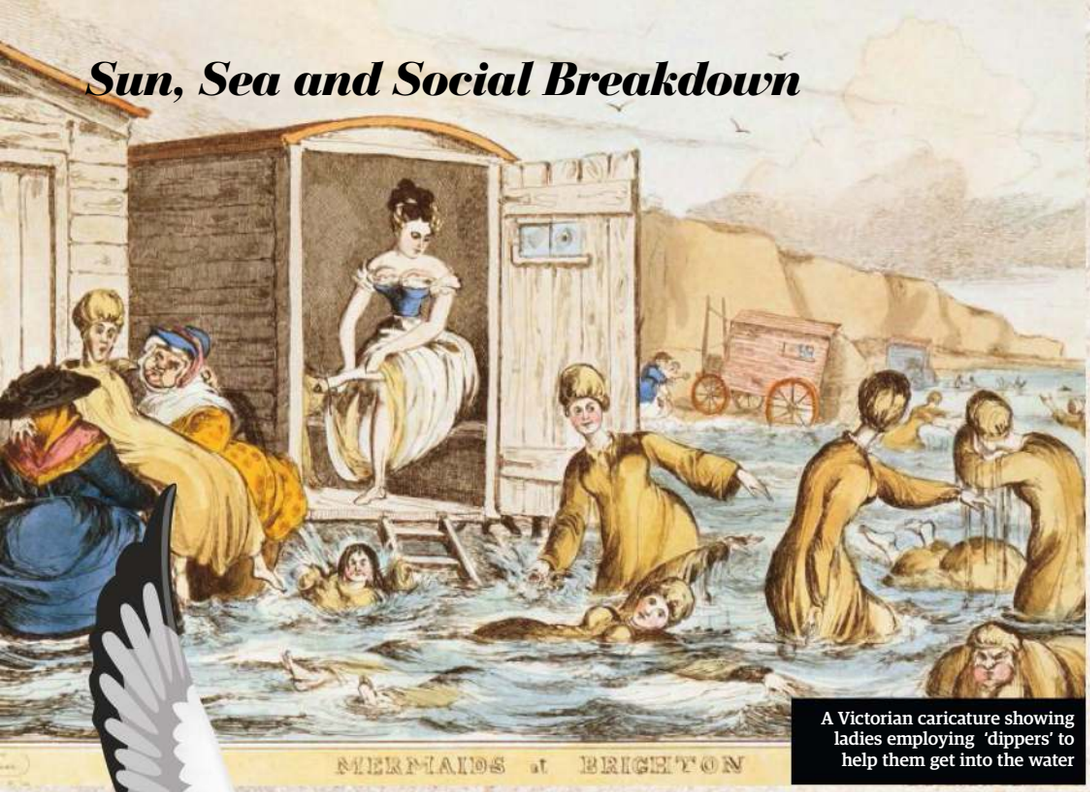
But the smog-ridden Industrial Revolution also brought railways. This new mode of transport could whisk you across country in a matter of hours, shrinking time itself and opening up a whole new world of endless opportunities of how people could spend their precious leisure time. Although expensive, the burgeoning Victorian middle class could afford rail fares and were keen to follow en masse where the aristocrats led.

All aboard the bathing machines

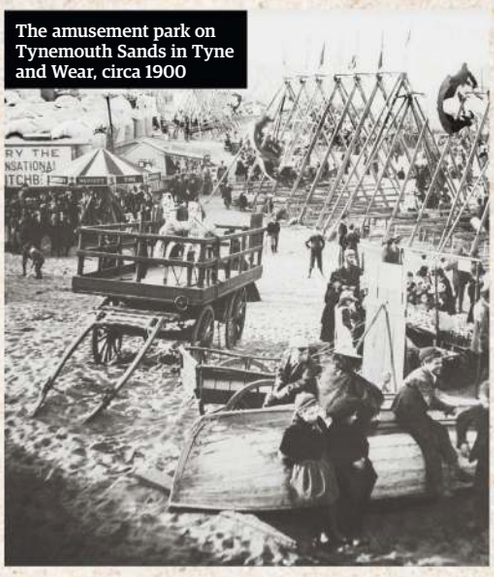
Up until the 1850s, it was not unusual for men to bathe or even swim in the sea completely naked. But such a tradition would not fit with the ever-expanding popularity of the seaside holiday. Not only were there more people sharing the beach, many of them were now women and children. Victorian values and correctness dictated that the proper etiquette was followed.

For example, as popular as promenading was, an unmarried woman was chaperoned by a married lady – a family member or friend – when strolling to ensure that the strict social boundaries between the sexes were not crossed and to ward off any unwanted or unsavoury advances. On the beach, this became something of a nightmare for Victorian decency, especially when it came to the tricky subject of bathing in the sea.

Promoted as a healthy pastime, sea bathing was as popular with Victorian women as men, if not more so as it represented another small yet



A Victorian caricature showing ladies employing 'dippers' to help them get into the water



The amusement park on Tynemouth Sands in Tyne and Wear, circa 1900

"Bathing machines also played a small part in giving a certain level of freedom"

significant change in attitudes towards what women should and should not do. It is important to point out, however, that it was bathing in the sea that was the draw – swimming in open water was quite rare. Paddling and dipping were both thought to invigorate health, but the big question was how could men and women benefit from such pleasurable pursuits while maintaining the essential Victorian decorum?

The first solution was quite straightforward – men and women would bathe in separate parts of the beach. In 1847, Parliament gave local councils new powers to set how far apart the sexes had to be when bathing. One such by-law passed by Lowecroft, Suffolk, which was not unusual for the era, dictated: "A person of the female sex shall not, while bathing, approach within 100 yards of any place at which any person of the male sex, above the age of 12 years, may be set down for the purpose of bathing."

Regulation also required that women wore a "suitable gown or other sufficient dress or covering to prevent indecent exposure of the body." This swimwear could be extremely heavy; sometimes weights were even sown into it, so that dresses did not float to the surface. In choppy waters, these heavy outfits could drown a wearer. But these coveralls did serve another purpose: they stopped the ladies getting a suntan. Until the 1920s, having a tan was considered vulgar and only for workers in the fields. On the beach, parasols would also be employed to shade them from the sun.

However, as modest as Victorian swimwear was, to their prudish minds, a woman having to walk the length of the beach to the sea – even on a gender-segregated beach – was the equivalent of a modern 'walk of shame'. Instead, they used a bathing machine.

Strictly speaking, bathing machines dated back to around the 1750s and were not really 'machines'. Resembling a beach hut with four wheels, it would be rolled out to sea, usually pulled by horses. Some machines were equipped with a canvas tent around the doorway, capable of being lowered to the water and thus giving the bather greater privacy.

Once deep enough in the surf, the bather would then exit the cart using the door facing away from prying eyes on the beach and proceed to paddle. For inexperienced swimmers – which would have been most Victorian women in their billowing swimwear – some beach resorts offered the service of a 'dipper', a strong woman who would escort the bather out to sea in the cart and lift them into the water and yank them out when they were done. When the swimmer wanted the bathing machine brought back in, they would signal the operator by raising a small flag attached to the contraption's roof.

Bathing machines were deeply hypocritical. Men did not have to employ any similar device and they just strolled into the water wearing a considerably tighter swimsuit. But in a strange sort of way, bathing machines also played a small part in giving a modicum of freedom to Victorian women, allowing them the privacy to experience sea bathing first-hand rather than be excluded altogether as they had been from so many other leisure activities and sports.

Another addition to the crowds that set the seaside holiday apart from anything that had gone before were children. Depending on class and standing in the world, Victorian children were either the educated future of the family line or just another worker, toiling in appalling conditions. But with rising prosperity came more disposable income and the ability to spend some time together as a family at the seaside. Those who once could only look on in admiration from afar as their 'betters' enjoyed a seaside break were now able to taste it for themselves.

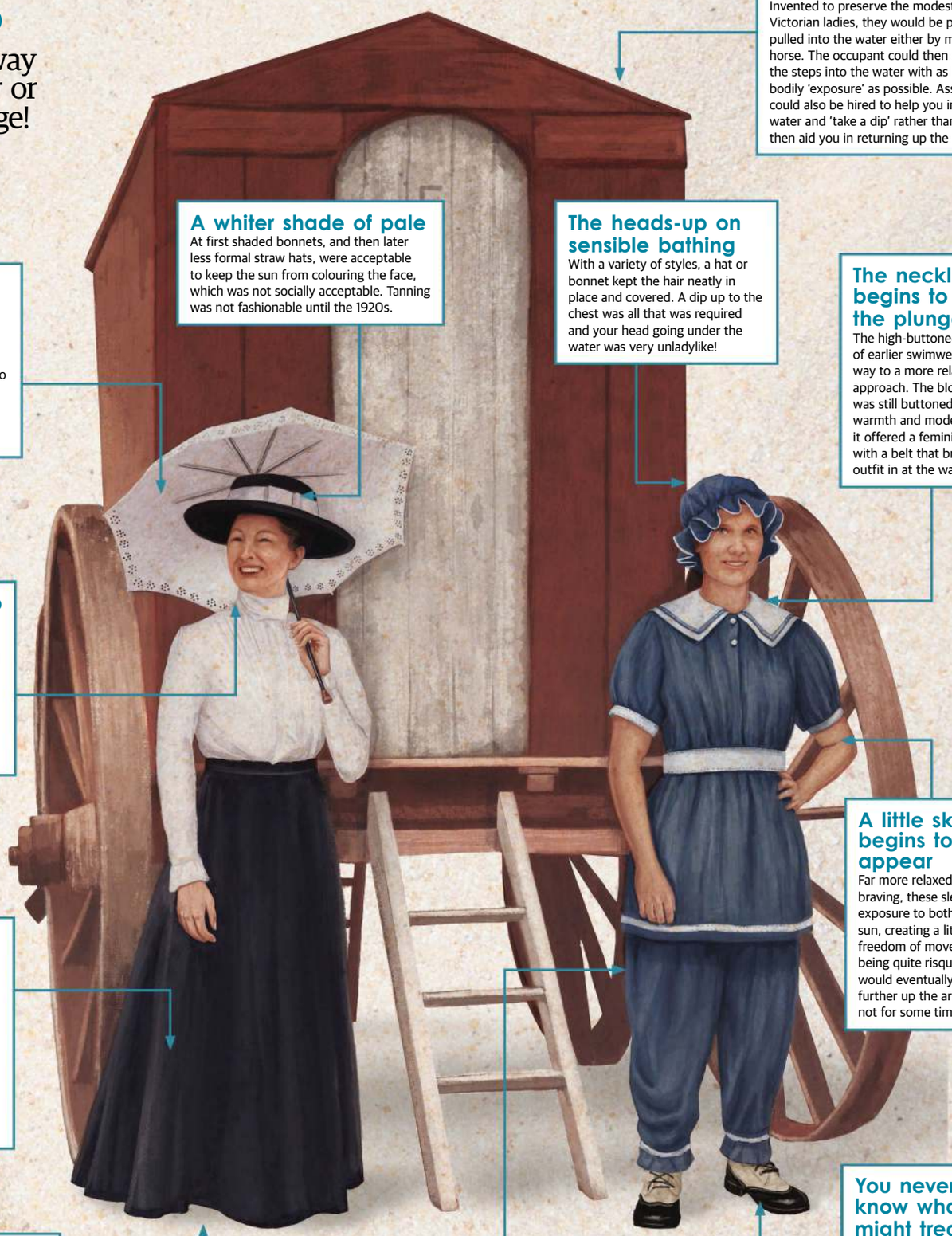
As access to the seaside increased, many organised trips through churches, charities and societies such as the Temperance Movement gave opportunities to even the lowest in society. 1871 saw the introduction of the Bank Holidays Act that set aside four days through the year as official holidays for all for the first time. These were not paid – an entitlement to paid holiday would not become law until the 20th century – but with ever-improving transport links and the cost of an excursion subsidised by groups and organisations, the nature of the seaside holiday began to change dramatically both in its scale and its experience.

Resorts boom

The railways transformed small communities - which often started as mere fishing villages - into bustling resorts to which people flocked in growing numbers.

The great cover-up

The modest way to take the air or take the plunge!



Bathing machines

Invented to preserve the modesty of Victorian ladies, they would be pushed or pulled into the water either by men or a horse. The occupant could then descend the steps into the water with as little bodily 'exposure' as possible. Assistants could also be hired to help you into the water and 'take a dip' rather than swim, then aid you in returning up the steps.

A second line of defence

If your hat or bonnet didn't give enough protection from the sun, a parasol did the trick. It was also very useful to shield you from the eyes of the lower classes and to hide telling blushes when being courted.

A whiter shade of pale

At first shaded bonnets, and then later less formal straw hats, were acceptable to keep the sun from colouring the face, which was not socially acceptable. Tanning was not fashionable until the 1920s.

The heads-up on sensible bathing

With a variety of styles, a hat or bonnet kept the hair neatly in place and covered. A dip up to the chest was all that was required and your head going under the water was very unladylike!

The neckline begins to take the plunge

The high-buttoned collars of earlier swimwear gave way to a more relaxed approach. The blouse was still buttoned up for warmth and modesty, but it offered a feminine style with a belt that brought the outfit in at the waist.

Chin up to keep out the chill

A high-collared jacket was essential to remaining poised and keeping the sea breeze from causing a chill. It also protected the arms from the sun and insects. Elaborate lace would complete the feminine touch.

A little skin begins to appear

Far more relaxed and braving, these sleeves gave exposure to both sea and sun, creating a little more freedom of movement and being quite risqué. Sleeves would eventually creep further up the arms, but not for some time yet.

Under wraps from prying eyes and pests

Necessary to cover the legs and the ankles from insects and gentlemen's gazes, long skirts were often paired with a crinoline petticoat to give it shape and bustle at the rear — not easy for sitting in a deck chair! Lighter cotton skirts were introduced later.

Avoid sand between your toes at all costs

Whether walking on the beach or the promenade, it was always wise to be prepared with a stout pair of shoes or boots, laced properly so as not to expose the ankles.

Weighed down by the need for modesty

Trousers or skirts were a point of style and preference in heavy woollen material. Ladies often chose a combination of these, even putting weights into the over-skirt to stop it rising to the surface and exposing the trousers beneath.

You never know what you might tread on

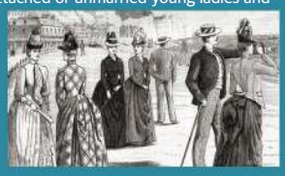
Sea bathing did not involve swimming and so shoes or boots covered the ankles for modesty and were required when you stood in the water, in case of jagged pebbles or unspeakable sea creatures that may have been underfoot.

Entertainment for All

Typical scenes from the Victorian seaside

The promenade

A combination of exercise and showing off, 'promenading' was a chance to take in the sea air, meet friends and make a fashion statement. Unattached or unmarried young ladies and girls were chaperoned at first, but it was later common for groups of both working class men and women on organised trips to use a stroll along 'the prom' to meet and flirt.



Ice cream

Just one example of how the social taboos of eating outdoors was broken. A famous Victorian cook, Agnes Marshall, claimed to have invented her own freezer equipment, patented an ice cream maker and created the first ice cream cone. Ice cream sellers would push carts up and down the beach all day. Other street foods of the day were cockles, mussels and the very first fish and chips.

Punch and Judy

While this slapstick puppet show about an anarchic clown and his family is from 16th-century Italy, it became a British seaside attraction in the early 1800s. This was partly thanks to new mobile booths that the operator could quickly dismantle to search for new audiences. To suit Victorian tastes, Punch's old adversary, the devil, was replaced with a crocodile and his mistress, Pretty Polly, ceased to be included at all.

Donkey rides

Rising in popularity in the latter part of the 19th century, these rides possibly evolved from the working donkeys that originally carried baskets of cockles and other shellfish as part of the local industry that supplied street vendors, hotels and boarding houses. Primarily for children, it was nevertheless enjoyed equally by adults, and in some areas, carts pulled by goats were also popular.

Bandstand

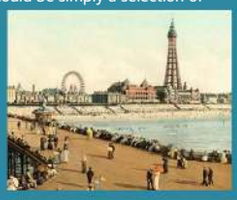
Victorians were well used to listening to bands playing in the open air at one of the many public parks that had sprung up around the country, and this outdoor entertainment was adopted to give an uplifting and invigorating atmosphere and entertainment to a day out by the sea.

Building sandcastles

As a means of keeping children entertained on the beach, buckets and spades were mass-produced from thin sheet metal and often brightly painted with decorations depicting the resort or scenes of a beach. Once purchased, they would be used year after year and were a popular and relatively cheap entertainment along with nets for exploring rock pools.

Pleasure palaces

The pier was both an extension of the promenade and a focal point for entertainment. This could be simply a selection of machines (later slot machines or 'one armed bandits') and a hall of mirrors so that crowds could experience being away from the shore and keeping their feet dry. The larger piers developed live music halls and concerts — and some even had their own train.



Deckchairs

The concept of sunbathing was foreign to the Victorians, but they did recognise the benefits of sitting out in the open air, so it's no surprise that folding deckchairs were patented in the US in 1855. Originally used on ocean liners and steamships — hence the reference to a 'deck' — the transition to using the lightweight, highly portable chairs on beaches in port towns must have been a natural one.

Bathing machines line the beach front at Hastings, East Sussex, circa 1900

Bathing machines were necessary for women who wished to take a dip in the sea

Pier pressure

Seaside towns sought to attract tourists by building ever longer piers

North Pier, Blackpool

Designed by Eugenius Birch, work began in 1862 and was completed in 1863. The pier was damaged in 1867 by Lord Nelson's former flagship, Foudroyant, which was moored alongside the pier as part of an exhibition. In the 1870s, the pierhead was enlarged and the Indian Pavilion and bandstand were built. There were further collisions with the pier from shipping in 1892 and 1897.

Brighton

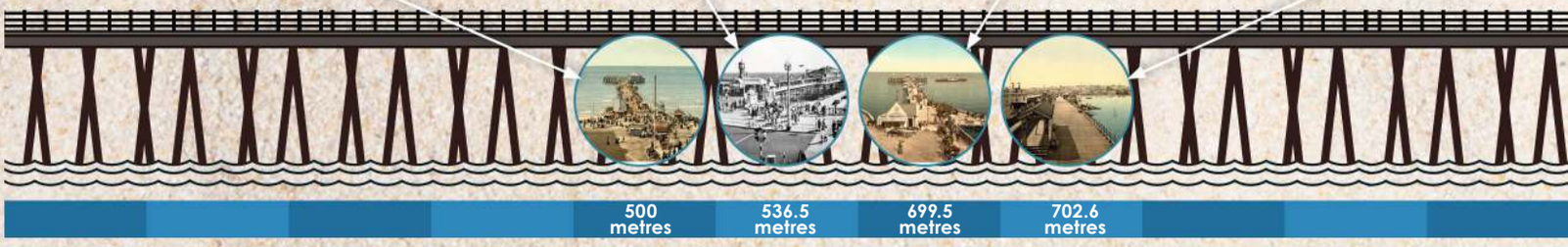
A relatively late construction, work began in 1891 and was completed in 1899. A tramway had been built to help with construction, but this was dismantled upon completion of the project. A 1,500-seat theatre was incorporated into the pierhead in 1901 along with various other smaller pavilions at various points along the construction.

Llandudno

Designed by James Brunlees, construction began in 1876 and was completed in 1877. A number of additions followed, including a bandstand at the pier head in 1877 and a pavilion at the shore end in 1884 that also incorporated a swimming pool. Further construction in 1884 took it to its final length.

Ryde

The very first of its kind in the country, its location on the Isle of Wight close to Queen Victoria's summer retreat made it a popular destination. First opened in 1814, it underwent various extensions to its length and to the size of the pierhead, including the addition of a tramway alongside the pedestrian pier.



A young couple frolic in the foreground while others enjoy the sands at Yarmouth beach, taken in 1895

By the middle of the 19th century, towns such as Brighton had already expanded, numbering 44,000 in the 1841 census. Other popular resorts like Blackpool and Llandudno had started much smaller, but with the industrial centres of Manchester and the Midlands not far away, they rapidly turned into the must-go places for groups of friends and co-workers looking for a few hours of fun.

In response to such high demand and the ability of some holidaymakers to even stay for a night or two, accommodation became a valuable commodity. A range of boarding houses and hotels sprang up to suit every budget. Resorts that regarded themselves as catering for the better class of person – places like Brighton with its royal links to the Georgian era and Ryde on the Isle of Wight, with its proximity to Queen Victoria's Osborne House – tended to already have large, grand hotels as close to the seafront as possible.

But for Blackpool and similar destinations, the lack of deeply rooted tradition meant they had more freedom and could virtually start from scratch. Boarding houses and small hotels became booming businesses, but one rule applied no matter where you stayed: the closer to the sea, the higher the price. And unscrupulous landlords were always looking for ways of extracting as much out of people's pockets as they could by whatever means necessary – especially what was meant by a 'sea view'!

With the development of the resorts came the expansion of the wealth of the towns and what they were able to offer in entertainment for holidaymakers to spend their money on. In many cases, the local pier would be extended to become even more impressive, offering a greater variety of entertainment than before.

Building was sometimes on a grand scale, with the creation of much more indoor entertainment to combat the unpredictable British weather. Aquariums, amusement arcades, ballrooms and even circuses were constructed as permanent fixtures to keep the public entertained and keep them spending.

With typical Victorian enterprise and invention, technology and mechanisation had their parts to play. Electric lighting illuminated the promenade, steam carousels and fairground rides appeared on the prom and the pier. Competing resorts made bold statements to attract customers, and what better way than with a replica of the Eiffel Tower at Blackpool to embody a sense of pride and success? The beach had not been forgotten – it was now just part of the whole drama and no longer the main character. What had been created for the seaside break was more choice and less reason to leave.

From rather sedate, genteel beginnings at the start of the Victorian age, by the end of the 19th century things were starting to look somewhat different. As the era progressed, so did the resorts, expanding not only in size but in what they had to offer. Demand drove innovation not only in the construction of new entertainments but also in transport, with rapid improvement of the railway network to help quench the ever-popular thirst to get away from it all.

People from all walks of life now shared the experience and attitudes, and standards slowly started to change. Many traditional ladies would still not take a dip in the sea, but for a younger, more liberal generation, it was a release from the strict ties of social boundaries that they fully embraced. Ladies' swimwear become slightly less restrictive and more risqué; the sexes mixed openly on the prom; bawdy 'what the butler saw' machines appeared in the arcades; and comedians told rude jokes in the music halls.

Tired of increasingly having to mix with the hoi polloi, the upper classes began to abandon their traditional resorts. Instead they spent their time and money on foreign holidays where, for now at least, the masses could not follow. What was left were the majority who had learned how to relax and enjoy themselves, willing and able to spend their hard-earned cash on a dazzling array of entertainments.

It was the working man and his family who had taken ownership of the seaside holiday. With ever-improving conditions for workers, the popularity of what the Victorians created continued to rise, leaving a legacy that still rings true today – and it is them we must thank that even now we all still love to be beside the seaside.

"Standards slowly started to change"

Southport

The local corporation first made plans for a pier in 1840, but it was not until 1859 that work began. It was designed by James Brunlees and first opened in 1860. Developments over the years have seen waiting rooms for boat passengers added, the pier lengthened and widened and a tramway built. A further extension in 1868 brought it to its final length.

Southend

The longest pleasure pier in the world, it was originally built in 1829 as an attraction for visitors from London and extends out into the Thames estuary. The wooden pier was only 180 metres long when first opened, but it was extended over time and by 1848 was already the longest pier in Europe.

© Alamy, Getty, Thinkstock, Kevin McGivern

What if... Watergate hadn't been uncovered?

If audio tapes hadn't linked Nixon to scandal, the president would have sent US troops back to Vietnam and might have kept Ronald Reagan out of office

Written by Jonathan O'Callaghan

On 8 August 1974, Richard Nixon became the first president of the United States to resign under threat of impeachment after the discovery of his links to the Watergate scandal. To this day, it remains one of the most pivotal moments in the history of American politics – but what would have happened if he'd never been caught?

Nixon resigned less than two years after he was re-elected in a landslide victory in 1972. While his first term had seen him act as a relatively liberal and progressive Republican, some experts have speculated the emboldened president might have become more right-wing if his second term hadn't been beleaguered by Senate investigations. But Kendrick Oliver, Professor of American History at the University of Southampton, disagrees.

"His intention to whittle down the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] is often pointed to as a sign that he would have moved in a more conservative direction," says Oliver. "[But] there is evidence prior to the election that he was talking with Ted Kennedy [about] a sort of bipartisan approach to healthcare."

It's likely the Vietnam War would have lasted much longer. While the signing of the Paris Peace Accords supposedly ended the conflict in 1973 with the withdrawal of American troops, the Soviet-backed North Vietnamese attacked and ultimately conquered the South on 30 April 1975.

"There are some historians who think that Nixon expected the [Paris Peace Accords] to fail, and intended all along to come back in to Vietnam with a very strong display of air power," explains Oliver. "[But] what happens is the Nixon administration is weakened by Watergate to the point that it was never able to get the response to the North Vietnamese incursions in the South, which led eventually to the fall of [South] Vietnam in spring 1975."

Regardless of whether the US could have succeeded in Vietnam the second time around, it's likely that Nixon's public standing on leaving office would likely have been higher. While he was never "beloved", notes Oliver, the certain air of respect that he had enjoyed was eroded by the release of the White House tapes that irrefutably linked him to Watergate.

"One of the most embarrassing things for Nixon was the language he used," said Oliver. "There were a lot of references to 'expletive deleted' [in the public transcripts], and it became clear that this man who sat happily with conservative family values was swearing quite a lot and could certainly talk a blue streak, and often engaged in anti-Semitic language as well. The tapes revealed this very complex and dark character of Richard Nixon."

If Nixon hadn't poisoned public opinion towards the Republican Party, the modern American political landscape might look very different. After Democrat Jimmy Carter won the 1976 election, in part due to public anger at Republican nominee Gerald Ford for pardoning Nixon, the Republicans shifted considerably to the right. But if Ford had triumphed – perhaps riding on the coattails of Nixon's hypothetical Vietnam victory and successful healthcare reform – it would have proved moderate politics still worked, so the party wouldn't have needed to radically rebrand.

"You wouldn't necessarily have seen a scenario in which Ronald Reagan was a successful candidate for the presidency in 1980," says Oliver.

> "The certain air of respect that he had enjoyed was eroded by the release of a series of tape recordings"

PROFESSOR KENDRICK OLIVER

Kendrick Oliver is a Professor of American History and Director of The Centre for Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies at the University of Southampton. He specialises in US history from 1945 to 1980, specialising in the modern political, social and cultural issues.

How would it be different?

Tapes burned
Before the White House tapes can be requested, Nixon burns them, destroying any evidence linking him to Watergate.
18 July 1973

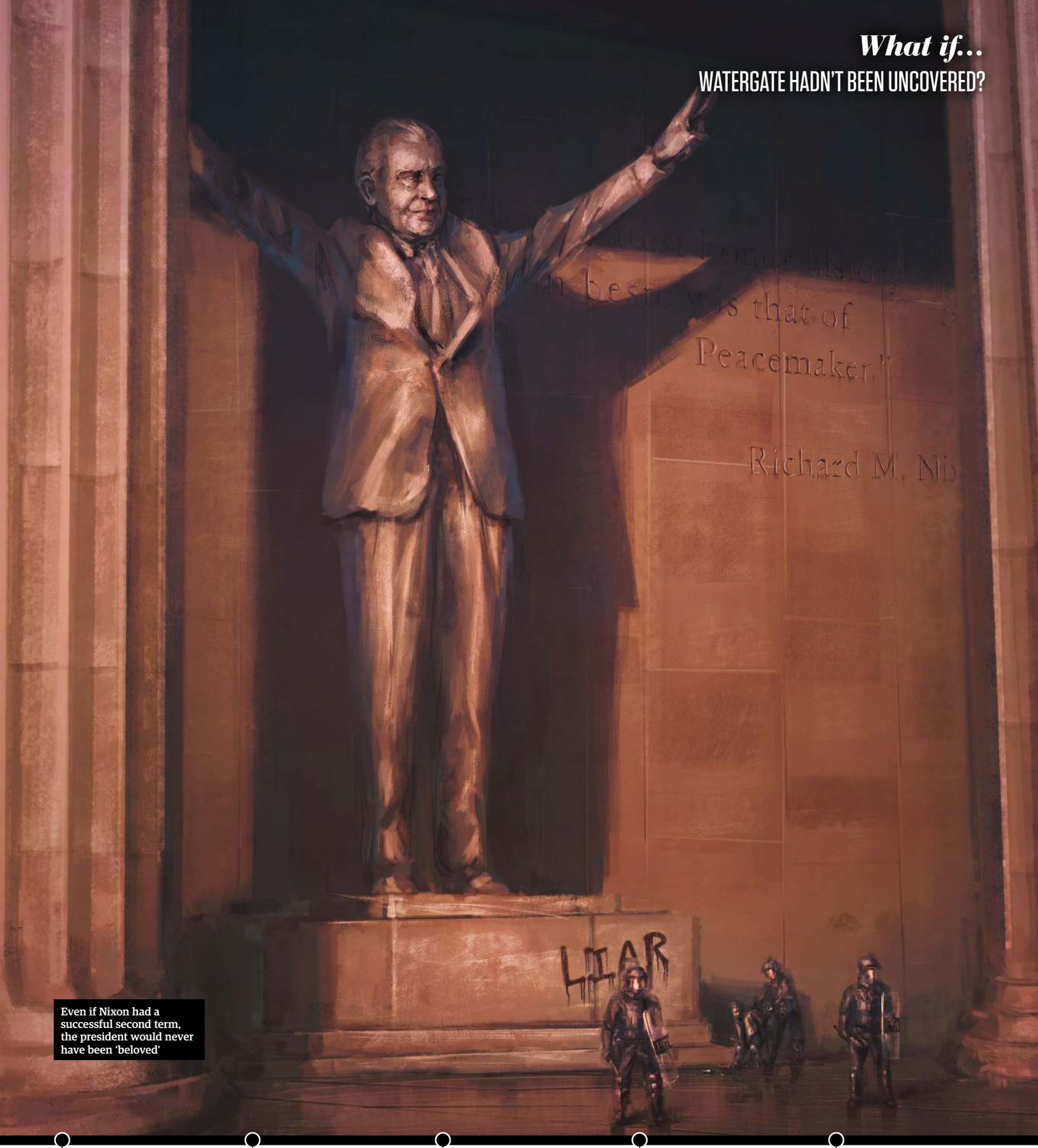
Aides jailed
Although some of Nixon's aides are jailed, the president himself emerges from the Watergate scandal largely unscathed.
August 1973

EPA scrapped
Nixon axes the EPA three years after its formation, due to fears that it is becoming too powerful.
February 1974

US re-enters Vietnam
Attempts by the North Vietnamese to expand into the South are met with swift air resistance ordered by President Nixon.
December 1974

No Spring Offensive
With a resurgent US, there is no Spring Offensive in Vietnam. The South never falls and the country remains divided.
April 1975

What if…
WATERGATE HADN'T BEEN UNCOVERED?



Even if Nixon had a successful second term, the president would never have been 'beloved'

Carter fails
Jimmy Carter loses his presidential election bid, with voters citing his inexperience in office as a cause for concern.
2 November 1976

Second term ends
Nixon ends his successful second term, leaving a Republican Party largely more liberal than it is today.
20 January 1977

Reagan who?
With the Republican Party favouring centrist politics, Ronald Reagan isn't nominated to run for president of the US.
1980

Democrats in disarray
Struggling with a moderate Republican Party, the Democrats are forced to shift ever more to the left.
1984

Trump trumped
Without the rise of more right-wing views in the Republican Party, Donald Trump never becomes the 45th president.
2016

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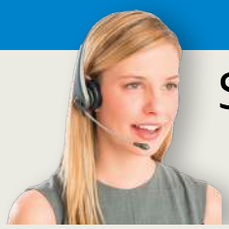

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Sir Francis Drake

This skilled and determined navigator was an English hero, but to the Spanish he was a savage and brutal demon

Written by Frances White

Dysentery was a rather unceremonious way for the hero of countless sea skirmishes to die. Aged 55, Sir Francis Drake was still relentlessly pursuing his lifelong enemy but the aging privateer succumbed to the grisly disease anchored off the coast of Panama.

To the English, his death was the loss of a hero, a beacon of English adventuring spirit who had vanquished enemies and helped expand an empire. But the Spanish breathed a sigh of relief – 'El Draque', scourge of the seas, was finally gone.

Drake's beginnings did not indicate that he would become such a monumental figure. Born circa 1540, he was the oldest of 12 children. At the age of about 12 he became an apprentice on a trade ship. His skills must have impressed as his master left him the vessel after his death.

Those years gave Drake a taste for adventure, and his ambition led him to join his cousin, John Hawkins, on one of the first English slaving voyages. Commanding his own boat, Drake sailed to Africa to pick up their cargo, then headed to New Spain to sell the slaves on. However, this was against Spanish law and they found themselves trapped in a Mexican port by Spanish forces.

The attack was quick and brutal, with only Drake and Hawkins able to escape. To some, this was just – after all, Drake was selling slaves and should have been prepared for Spain's response. But there are stories that the Spanish promised Drake they wouldn't attack and had then broken their word. Either way, the event would have a profound effect on the young man, and one thing motivated his every action from then on: vengeance.

Revenge may seem an ungentlemanly catalyst, but Drake wasn't exactly alone in his anti-Spanish sentiments. With a lust for power, England was trying to catch up with Spain's exploration efforts. The latter was already controlling the seas, creating lucrative trade routes and benefiting from slavery. Although on the surface the two countries were at peace, intense competition bubbled underneath. Domination meant only one nation could win, and a clash was inevitable to decide which it would be.

Elizabeth I certainly understood that the Spanish were anything but friends. In 1572, she enlisted

"Domination meant only one nation could win, and a clash was inevitable"

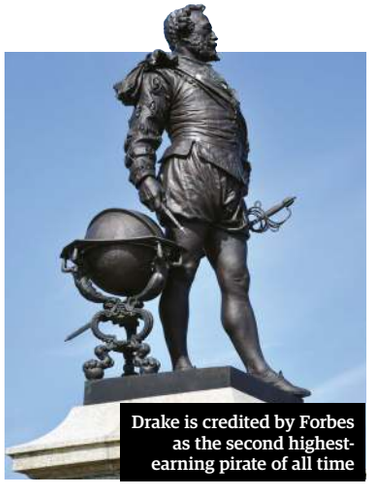
Defining moment

A lifelong rivalry begins

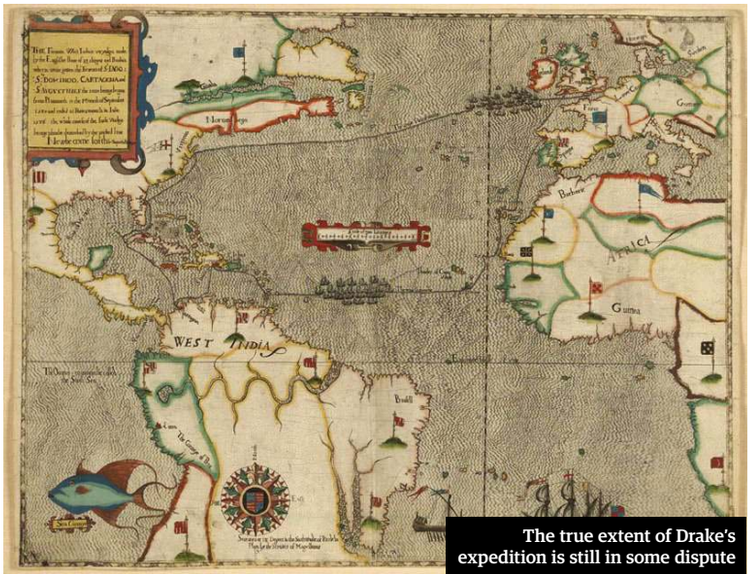
Filled with ambition and optimism, a young Francis Drake voyages to the Americas. However, when he sails to New Spain to sell his human cargo, the Spanish attack. When Drake and his cousin, John Hawkins, are forced to flee, many of their men that are left behind are massacred. This terrifying event gives Drake a very personal reason to loathe the Spanish — a grudge that he will stubbornly hold on to for his entire life.

1568

Many people held Drake personally responsible for the war with Spain



Drake is credited by Forbes as the second highest-earning pirate of all time



The true extent of Drake's expedition is still in some dispute

It actually wasn't Elizabeth who dubbed Drake a knight but a French diplomat

Drake to serve as a privateer – he could sail to the Americas, but it essentially gave him permission to attack any property belonging to Spain along the way. Drake took to this quickly, capturing and raiding several Spanish settlements on the way home. The crew obtained so much treasure that they were unable to take it all back.

Drake's methods were ruthless, but it was a merciless, violent period and the New World was there for the taking. More than anything, Drake was relentless. During one raid, he was injured so horrifically his footprints in the sand were filled with blood, but he still didn't give up. He experienced torrential storms, deaths and failures but battled through. This is what the Spanish found so terrifying – not any particular brutal methods, but his unwillingness to yield. Whether this was motivated by commitment to country or his own selfish desires, though, is up for debate.

Defining moment

Drake is knighted

After returning from his epic journey across the seas, Drake is hailed as the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. For this – and the treasures he brought back – he receives a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth I. Despite what some would call brutality, this confirms to him that his queen and country are in support of his deeds and motivates him to continue his ravaging of Spanish settlements.

1581

When Drake returned to England, it was with a fierce reputation and hordes of stolen booty. The queen certainly appreciated the treasures and more than likely approved of the blows he had dealt against England's biggest enemy. However, she maintained a public face of opposition to his unlawful approach in order to prevent more hostility with Spain. Lord Burghley, the queen's minister, was very vocal in his dislike of Drake's wicked actions and the English people themselves were not entirely convinced. Much like today, Drake created somewhat of a divide, with some branding him a hero and others uneasy about his dubious methods.

Elizabeth didn't do a great job at pretending to be disapproving, commissioning Drake to explore the coast of North America, seeking a northwest passage in 1579. In reality, the queen was unleashing Drake upon the Spanish there. This journey would go down in legend as Drake became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, but it was a brutal voyage, fraught with danger.

Only one of his five ships remained by the time he reached the Pacific Ocean, yet this didn't distract him from unleashing hell upon the Spanish ports along the west coast of South America. He also reputedly landed off the coast of California and claimed it for the queen - even today in San Francisco's Union Square there is a hotel commemorating him. Although he was unable to find passage, his accomplishments in circumnavigation earned him the respect of the English and a knighthood.

However, not everyone was so complimentary. During the journey he had come into conflict not only with the Spanish but his own co-commander, Thomas Doughty. While the two had been friends for some time, their relationship turned sour at sea, and Drake eventually accused Doughty of mutiny and witchcraft, striking him and tying him to a mast. He claimed to have authority from the queen to carry out a trial, though no proof was given, and Doughty was found guilty and beheaded.

Much of the unrest was due to the fact that many of the sailors did not sign up for what was essentially becoming a pirate raid. Doughty was not

Defining moment

Defeat of the Armada

When the Spanish Armada makes its way up the English Channel, Drake leads the defence as vice admiral in command of the English fleet. He organises fire ships to wreak havoc with the Spanish, causing them to become disorganised, devises a devastating broadside attack and captures the enemy's flagship. The victory is the culmination of a life's work for Drake, yet his hatred and lust for revenge are certainly far from sated.

1588

Drake made sure that English ships kept their distance to avoid boarding, a popular Spanish tactic

"Elizabeth used Drake like a battering ram, thrusting him into Spanish ports"

alone in his disapproval, and when Drake became stranded several years later, the ship's chaplain claimed this was due to Doughty's unjust murder. The captain responded by not only firing him, but chaining him to a hatch cover and claiming he was excommunicated.

While Drake's brutal methods may have upset some of his men, none loathed and feared him more than Philip II. Infuriated by Drake's raids, it was the Spanish king who gave him the nickname 'El Draque', meaning 'dragon'. It is also claimed Philip put a bounty of 20,000 ducats on his head, the equivalent of several million pounds today. Drake's Spanish enemies were so terrified of him that a rumour quickly spread that he was in league with the devil. There was also gossip that he had an enchanted mirror that showed him the positions of all ships on the sea.

England, however, embraced the 'dragon' as their hero. Sir Francis Drake was appointed mayor of Plymouth and became a Member of Parliament. An active politician, he helped build a canal that supplied Plymouth with fresh water for centuries. But the MP wasn't quite ready to settle down yet and would take breaks from his duties to raid Spanish settlements at sea.

As relations between England and Spain worsened, Elizabeth used Drake like a battering ram, thrusting him into Spanish ports to wreak havoc and flee with gold. It was these raids that finally drove Philip to invade England once and for all. The Spanish built a vast force of warships, but then Drake raided Cadiz. He destroyed more than 30 ships and thousands of tons of supplies with a devastating attack that set the Armada back several years.

However, in Drake's own words, he only 'singed the King of Spain's beard,' delaying the inevitable. The Armada arrived in 1588 and Drake was appointed vice admiral of the English force that defeated the Spanish. Drake, as usual, followed his own rules, breaking off from the fleet and capturing the flagship. Whether this was genius, a lust for fame or further revenge, it worked and the English won. Not sated with this, Drake headed out once more to destroy the last remains of the beaten force as well as supporting anti-Philip rebels in Lisbon.

The aim of Drake's final journey was to cut off the Spanish revenue supply in Panama and finally end the war – but this time the Spanish were prepared. It was during this campaign that Drake contracted the disease that would kill him. Fittingly for the man who had made his name at sea, Drake's body was dressed in full armour, sealed in a lead coffin and buried in the watery depths. To this day, his resting place has not been found.

Even in the bloodthirsty era of piracy, Drake stood out. But if it wasn't for his extreme methods, he wouldn't have been so successful and it is unlikely he would be the English hero he is today. Although his exploits terrified and alienated friend and foe alike, they were also instrumental in building England up as a superpower. He was an undeniably talented navigator with a will of steel, despite his motivations being dubious at best. Just like his watery grave, it is likely that Drake's rightful place in history will remain unclear for some time.

Was Sir Francis Drake a hero or a villain? Let us know what you think

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LOST TREASURES

From Nazi gold to King John's jewels, these are history's greatest prizes still waiting to be found

Written by Ben Gazur

At some point, everyone feels the longing to throw down their humdrum lives and set out on an adventure for pirate gold. For most people, this lust for buried treasure disappears at about the same time that their letter from Hogwarts fails to materialise. And while you may never get your wand, there really are lost hoards just waiting for the right person to find them. Here are eight of the most tantalising.

1 1715 Spanish treasure fleet

From the 16th century onwards, the Spanish Empire extracted vast fortunes from the New World. In 1715, a fleet packed with gold, silver and emeralds left Havana, Cuba, and entered the dreams of treasure hunters when a storm wrecked the fleet, sending its cargo to the seabed off the Florida coast.

We know about this treasure not only because of historical records, but also because divers regularly chance on some of the Spanish swag. A family of divers found $1 million-worth of Spanish gold in 2015, while another venture came up with $4.5 million in coins. There are even reports of gold coins found washed up on beaches.

The Spanish fleet was wrecked off the coast of Florida in a storm

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Florida coast, USA

2 Nazi gold of Lake Toplitz

During World War II, the picturesque Lake Toplitz in Austria was used by German troops as a testing ground for naval weapons. The mountains echoed the sounds of explosive detonations. As the war drew to a close, troops were seen taking boxes to the water and sinking them into the murky depths.

What were they hiding? No one is certain, though of course the mind leaps immediately to the idea of looted gold. Searches have turned up bundles of counterfeited British currency that was to be used to destabilise the pound. Unfortunately, conditions in the lake make treasure hunting difficult, and submerged floating logs wait to snare anyone who does descend into the depths looking for fabulous wealth.

Lake Toplitz was used as a weapons training ground in 1943-44

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Lake Toplitz, Austria

3 King John's jewels

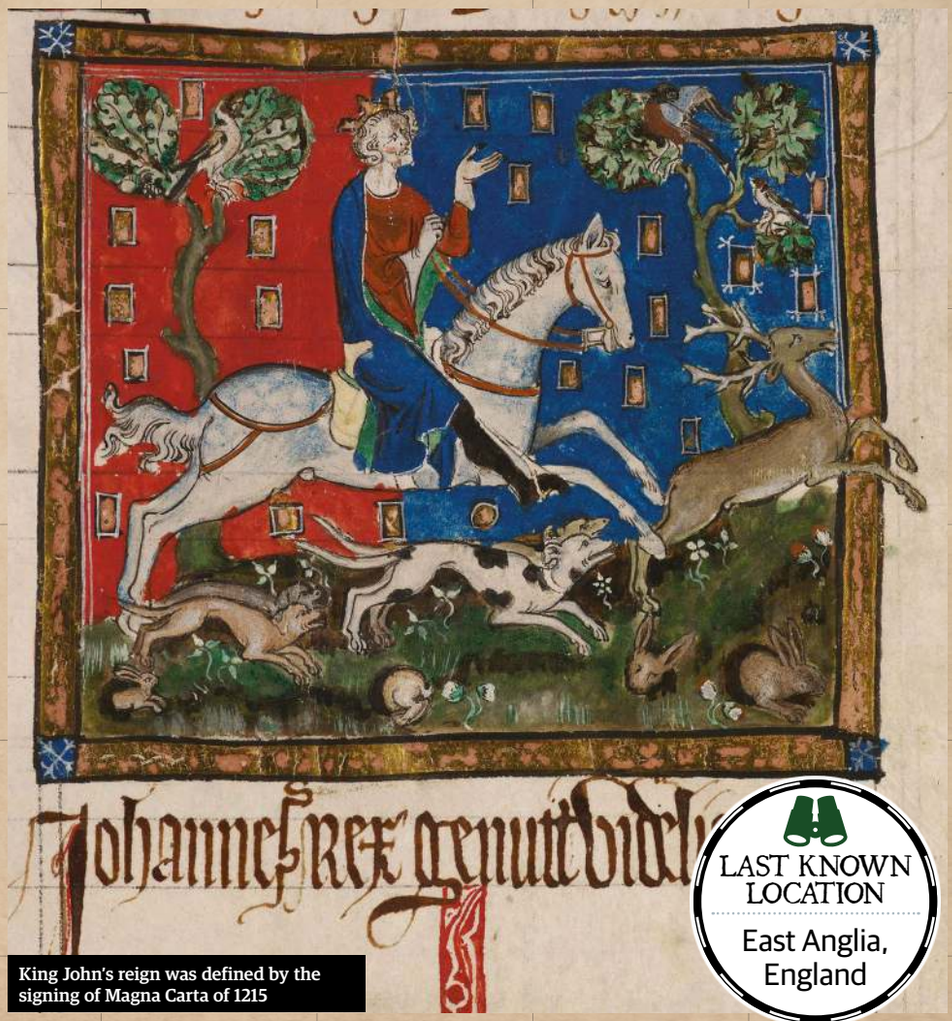
In October 1216, King John was on the run. The French had invaded England with support from the Scots, while his own English barons were openly revolting against him for asking the pope to annul the Magna Carta. Retreating from the French, the king headed north, travelling through the wild marshlands of East Anglia from the port town of King's Lynn to Lincoln.

In his haste it seems that the king may have not hired a guide to lead him through the Fens. His train crossed the Wash, a shallow estuary, at low tide and the slow baggage carts became caught in the mud as the tide turned. The animals and their cargo were lost in the rush of water.

Exactly what was lost in the Wash remains unknown, but John was devastated. While local legend that his crown and other royal regalia were among the buried treasures seems wishful thinking, we do know that his jewellery, plate and other valuables were. John fell ill with dysentery and died that same month, his spirit broken.

There have been various attempts to find the jewels but the shifting landscape makes it difficult. In 2015, archaeologists using lasers were confident that they could map John's route but were ultimately unable to detect any signs of the treasure. What's more, every passing tide deposits more silt across the burial site, making discoveries more and more unlikely.

> "Exactly what was lost in the Wash remains unknown"



King John's reign was defined by the signing of Magna Carta of 1215

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
East Anglia, England

4 Treasure of Lima

Hundreds of treasure hunters have headed to Cocos Island to try and find the treasure

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Cocos Island, Costa Rica

By the 1800s, the Spanish colonies of the New World were beginning to flex their muscles – they could no longer be relied on to simply give up their vast supplies of gold. With Peru's loyalty looking shaky, the governor of Lima decided to evacuate the state's treasury to the safety of Mexico. He entrusted the hoard to a Newfoundland captain called William Thompson, who promptly disappeared with the golden Incan statues, diamonds and bullion.

Thompson and his crew were later captured, though without their plunder. Many of the crew were hanged for piracy but Thompson managed to escape the noose by promising to reveal the location of treasure. He led the Spanish to Cocos Island but fled into the jungle, never to be recaptured. Was the treasure really buried on Cocos, or was it just a convenient spot for Thompson to make a getaway?

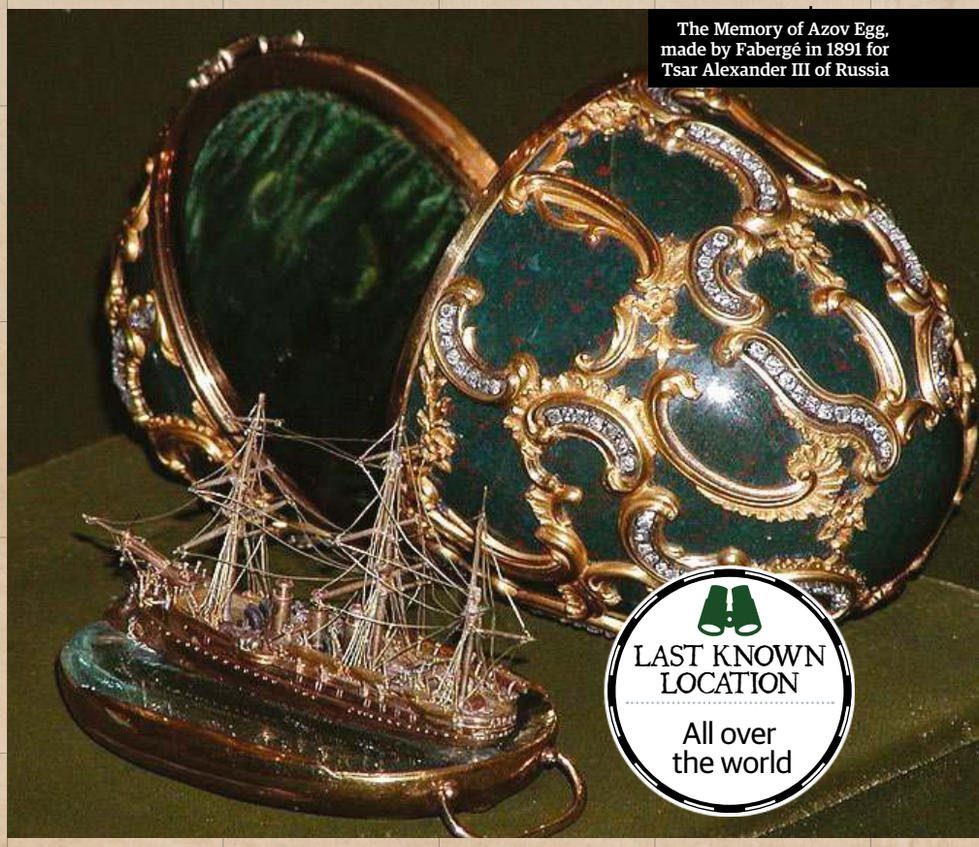
5 Lost Fabergé eggs

In 1917, the House of Fabergé jewellers were preparing to deliver two of their sumptuous golden and jewelled eggs to the Russian imperial family for Easter. Unfortunately for Fabergé, and even more so for the ruling Romanovs, the Russian Revolution swept away their patrons. The royal collection of eggs was scattered around the world as they were sold by the new cash-strapped Bolshevik government.

Of the 50 Fabergé eggs there are several whose locations are unknown – but, unlike the other treasures on this list, there is a chance you might just stumble upon one. In 2004, the Third Imperial Egg was sold in the American Midwest for $14,000, its scrap value, by a trader who did not know what he had. The egg languished in the owner's kitchen until they decided to Google the name 'Vacheron Constantin' inscribed on the egg. In 2014, the anonymous trader sold it for an undisclosed figure, likely to be in the millions.

The Third Imperial Easter Egg was seized after the Revolution

The Moscow Kremlin Egg has never left Russia



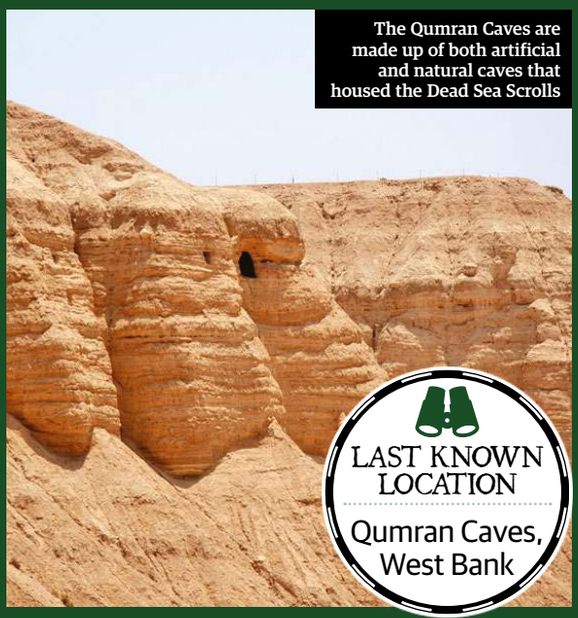
The Memory of Azov Egg, made by Fabergé in 1891 for Tsar Alexander III of Russia

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
All over the world

"The royal collection of eggs was scattered around the world as they were sold"

6 Treasure of the Dead Sea Scrolls

The Copper Scroll was discovered in 1952



The Qumran Caves are made up of both artificial and natural caves that housed the Dead Sea Scrolls

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Qumran Caves, West Bank

Any archaeologist would give their right hand, and their trowel, to discover a historical treasure trove like the Dead Sea Scrolls. Among the important Biblical manuscripts written on papyrus and parchment, an intriguing copper scroll was found that hints at a more worldly treasure lurking somewhere in the desert.

The Copper Scroll is engraved with 64 locations where gold and silver have been deposited and details the amount of treasure hidden in each. There is scholarly debate as to who made the scroll, who hid the bullion, when they did it and why. Such questions often take a secondary place to more mercenary ones when just one of the caches is described by the scroll as holding 41 talents (about 1,350 kilograms) of silver.

7 Flor de la Mar

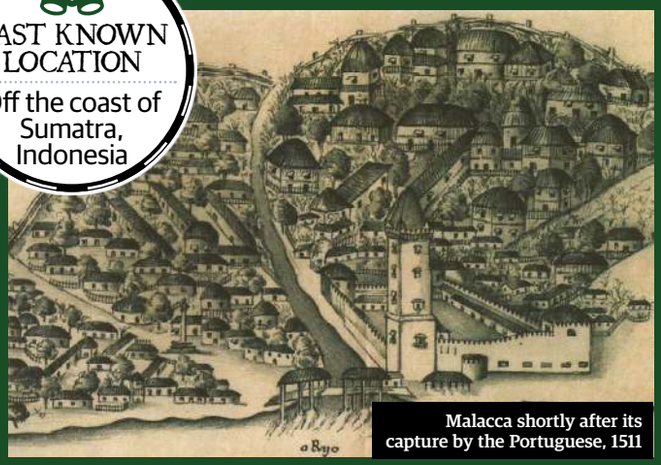
In the early 16th century, Portuguese fleets were spreading out across the globe as it began to forge an empire. Not content to act as tourists, the ships returning to Lisbon could be expected to be laden with valuable goods from wherever they had landed.

The Flor de la Mar (Flower of the Sea) was built in 1502 to follow the lucrative trade route to India. Later, the trading vessel was pressed into service in the Portuguese wars in India and Malaysia. When the rich mercantile state of Malacca fell, the Flor de la Mar was loaded with all the treasures that the Portuguese could lay their hands on. Overloaded with booty, the ungainly ship became stuck on shoals and was wrecked by a storm. The treasure of the Flor de la Mar may still be buried in the sands and silt of the Malacca Strait.

Afonso de Albuquerque escaped the shipwreck by the skin of his teeth

"The Flor de la Mar ... was built in 1502 to follow the lucrative trade route to India"

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia



Malacca shortly after its capture by the Portuguese, 1511

8 The Amber Room

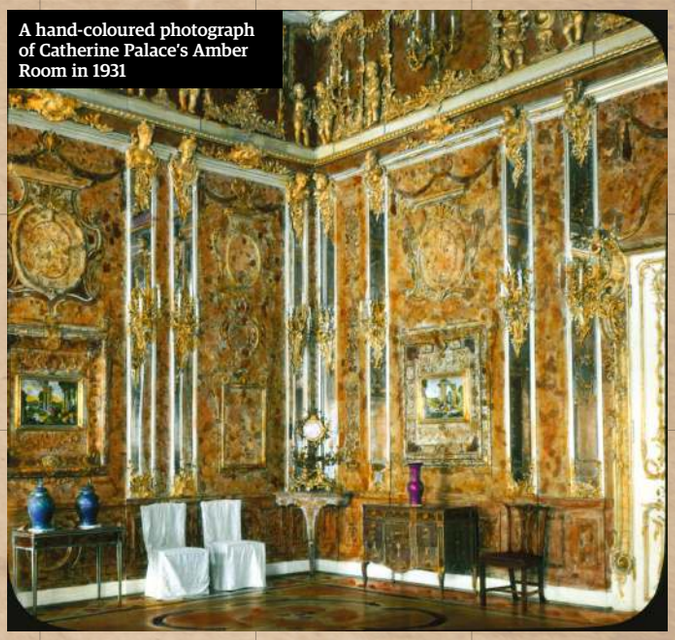
There is a Lithuanian legend about the origin of the amber that washes up on the shores of the Baltic Sea. The goddess of the sea lived in a palace made of amber. When she angered the god of thunder, he smashed it to millions of shards. It is these pieces of gemstone that are gathered by beachcombers.

But we don't need to go into myth to find an amber palace. In Catherine Palace near Saint Petersburg, a room decorated with over six tons of amber was created for the delight of the Russian royal family in 1701. The Amber Room, as it was predictably named, was looted by the Nazis in World War II. Russian curators charged with evacuating national treasures to Leningrad at the beginning of the German invasion in 1941 found they could not move the aged amber without it crumbling, so they disguised the room with mundane wallpaper – but this didn't fool the Nazis.

They dismantled the Amber Room in 36 hours, packed it into 27 crates and shipped them to Königsberg Castle in Germany. Here they were studied for two years until an Allied bombing raid razed the city in 1943. After that, the trail for the Amber Room was lost. Portions of the room have resurfaced over the years and a reconstruction of it was created at Catherine Palace in 2003, but the original is still out there waiting to be found.

LAST KNOWN LOCATION
Königsberg Castle, Germany

Catherine Palace was built for Catherine I of Russia



A hand-coloured photograph of Catherine Palace's Amber Room in 1931

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How to make... BYZANTINE RICE PUDDING

ANCIENT DESSERT BYZANTIUM, 330

Byzantium offered a unique blend of fusion cuisine. It combined Roman cooking with traditions from Greece and the eastern Mediterranean, while the city's position on the Bosphorus Strait meant it sampled many distant spices as merchants travelled back and forth between Asia and Europe.

No doubt the Byzantine Empire's shifting borders over a millennium further added to its cooking pot of exotic textures, flavours and aromas. These, coupled with imported sugar from southeast Asia, helped the people of Byzantium – which later became Constantinople and then Istanbul – to develop exquisite desserts.

Rice pudding has its beginnings in Persia, where a dish called sheer berenj – meaning 'milk rice' – is still eaten today. The Byzantine version is very similar, with the addition of a variety of delicious extra ingredients from the city's bustling bazaars, putting a fragrant twist on the popular and much-loved dessert.

Ingredients

- 200g rice
- 700ml whole milk
- 55g sugar
- 60ml rose water
- Spices to taste (see step 5)

Did you know?

Sheer birinj is a variation of rice pudding that's still enjoyed as a delicacy across the Middle East today. It is nicknamed 'food of the angels'.

METHOD

01 Pop your rice in a sieve and wash it under cold water, rinsing it until the water runs clear. You can use any type of rice you like – long or short grain, they're all delicious!

02 If you have time, soak your rice in water for a few hours or ideally overnight. Don't worry if you need to whip up a batch faster, though, as you can just extend the simmering time until the pudding thickens.

03 Drain your softened rice and place it with the water into a saucepan (a non-stick one is best). Using a low heat, bring the water to a gentle boil and simmer until the rice has just about absorbed it all.

04 Very slowly add the milk. Stir in a bit at a time and then once it's all added, keep stirring the pudding so that it doesn't burn on the bottom of the pan. After around 30 minutes, the rest of the milk will be absorbed.

05 This is the part where you add the flavour. Mix in the sugar and rose water and stir to combine. From here, you can try any combination of Middle Eastern flavours – cardamom, nutmeg and cinnamon are all enticing.

06 Once your sugar and spices have been added, you'll need to keep your pudding over a low heat, stirring continuously until it thickens to the desired consistency.

07 Your finished pudding should wobble slightly when shaken. You can either servie it hot right away or enjoy it cold later on.

08 Serve your pudding with a choice of Byzantine delights, such as drizzled honey or by scattering dates on top. For extra crunch, you could try some slivered almonds or pistachios. Pomegranate seeds and edible flowers can also add a taste of luxury!

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REVIEWS

All About History on the books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world

KOH-I-NOOR: THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD'S MOST INFAMOUS DIAMOND

How a magnificent jewel became a colonial icon

Authors William Dalrymple and Anita Anand **Publisher** Bloomsbury **Price** £16.99 **Released** Out now

It might seem excessive to write some 300 pages about a diamond but, as this biography reveals, the Koh-I-Noor is so much more than a lump of pressurised carbon. It has taken on various significances throughout its centuries-long history as a symbol of religion and power, a spoil of love and war, and, of course, a token of colonialism.

In 1848, the ten-year-old Maharajah of the Punjab was forced to hand over the jewel, along with his country, to Queen Victoria. It was later set into the consort's crown, last worn by the Queen Mother at Elizabeth II's coronation. Today the Koh-I-Noor is locked away in the Tower of London, though it is on public display.

Authors William Dalrymple and Anita Anand have written half the book each. Dalrymple, known for his travel writing and sweeping histories, starts with a thorough and fact-laden account of what we know, what we might know and what we simply can't know about the origins of this dazzling diamond.

However, he does presume the reader's knowledge of the Koh-I-Noor's significance. While this allows the authors to jump straight into the detail of the story, it is not very welcoming for those unfamiliar with the diamond. There are also plenty of references to carats and other specialist jewellery terms that go unexplained. Furthermore, Dalrymple is particularly preoccupied with the fact that the Koh-I-Noor is about the "size of a hen's egg" – it's quite remarkable how many times this specific phrase pops up.

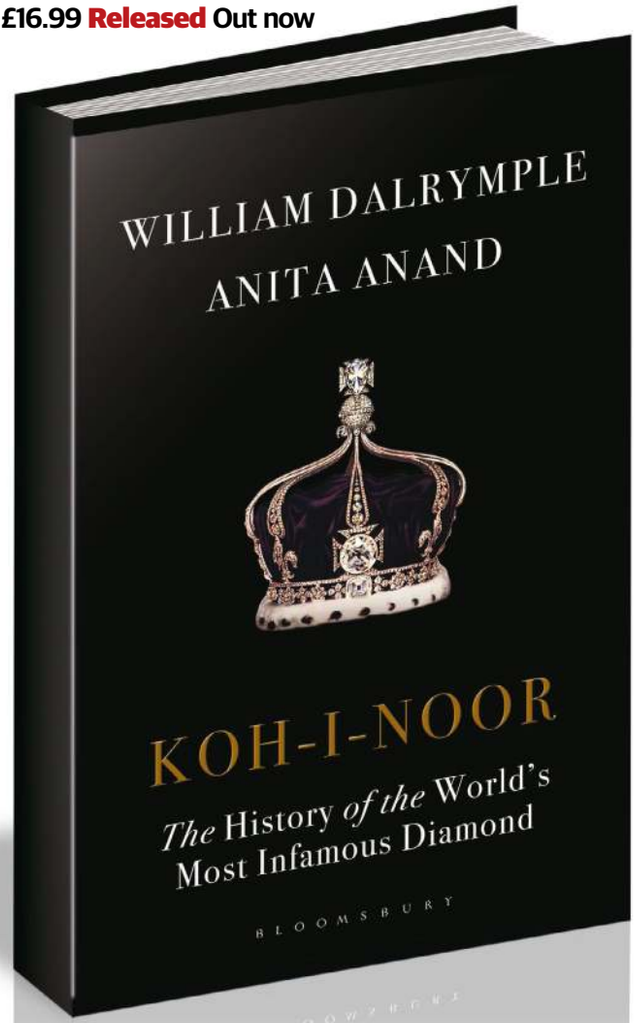
The Koh-I-Noor itself is captured in glimpses through the first half of the book, which adds to its air of mystery. It appears in various sources, at times encrusted in an opulent throne, at other times worn on a turban or armband.

One particularly shocking revelation is that the Koh-I-Noor wasn't always the most coveted jewel – at one point it played second fiddle to the Timur Ruby. But, as time went on and European tastes came into play, the Koh-I-Noor became more desired and craved than it had ever been before.

Journalist Anand deals with the diamond's modern history and presents the case for its return to India, which brings the arguments for returning looted artefacts to their original homes into play. To this day, no attempt has been made by the British government to return the Koh-I-Noor to India, but the book points out that both Afghanistan and Iran also lay claim to it (at one point, the authors suggest splitting the jewel so that each country can have a piece).

The 16 pages of colour inserts give surprisingly few glimpses of the diamond itself, though perhaps the image of the crown in which it now sits, on the book's jacket, is statement enough. Still, for a publication about an object revered for its beauty and mystery, it is perhaps underserved by the images inside. The historic Indian paintings are wonderful but are rarely given the space they need to show their intricate detail.

This book gives a thorough history of the Koh-I-Noor by two authors who clearly find its allure fascinating. It is certainly an entertaining and enlightening read, particularly for those who already have an interest in the diamond's dramatic history.



"To this day, no attempt has been made by the British government to return the Koh-I-Noor to India"

THE DEATH OF STALIN

A gripping graphic novel about the real life Man of Steel

Author Fabien Nury **Artist** Thierry Robin **Publisher** Titan **Price** £22.99 **Released** Out now

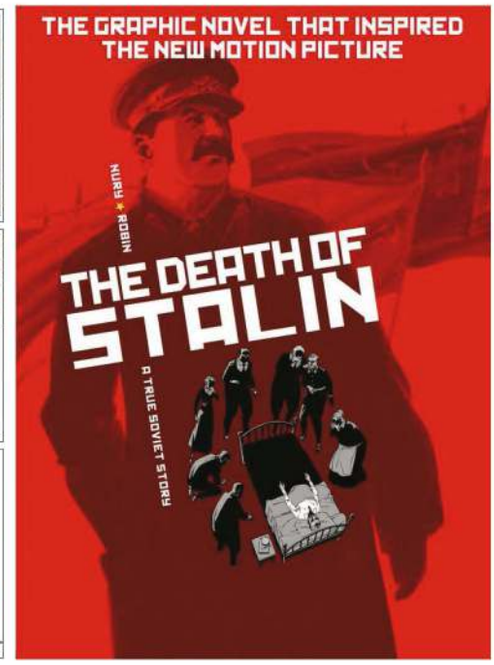
It isn't hard to see why Armando Iannucci is bringing a version of this graphic novel to the big screen. There's the same vein of cynical political humour here that's to be found in his TV shows *The Thick Of It* and *Veep*. The irony is that the absurdities in *The Death Of Stalin* have their basis in historical fact and, while outlandish, they are all too horribly believable.

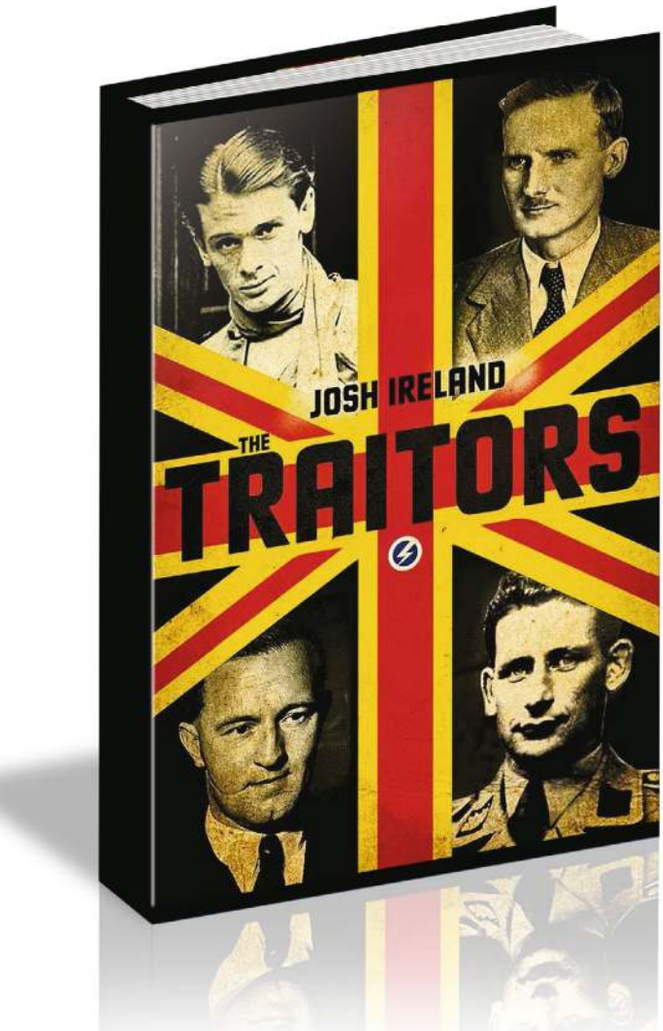
The action takes place mostly in the Kuntsevo Dacha, Stalin's country residence, during the two days after he keeled over from a catastrophic and ultimately fatal stroke in March 1953. The principal members of the governing Central Committee of the Communist Party assemble while the great leader hovers on the brink of death upstairs.

Ostensibly, the group are gathered there to decide how they will maintain control of the Soviet Union after the demise of the man who was keeping the country together more or less single-handedly. What actually happens, however, is in-fighting, backstabbing and strategic paralysis as the various potentates jockey for position.

The true villain of the piece is Lavrentiy Beria, Stalin's deputy, who assumes he is next in line for the top post. As if we were not already aware what a nasty piece of work Beria was, we first meet him raping an anonymous young woman over his office desk. His scheming, evilly grinning presence lurks behind every twist and turn of the plot, until the end when he gets his deserved comeuppance.

The power of the comic format lies in expressing complex stories in a clear, accessible way, and *The Death Of Stalin*, well translated here from the original French, does the job admirably. The book lays bare the dark farce that was Soviet communism in its heyday, finding flashes of pathos, humour and even hope amid the dreadfulness.





THE TRAITORS

Britain's inglorious bastards

Author Josh Ireland **Publisher** John Murray **Price** £20 **Released** Out now

The crime of treason in the UK seems archaic today, but even though it's been somewhat muted since the late 20th century, it's still a punishable offence. In the last decade it's a charge that's been considered for radical Muslim clerics and British jihadi fighters.

During wartime Britain and that no-man's land between the two world wars, patriotism was the bedrock of good character and treason was unforgivable – nay, unthinkable – to the common man.

But there were at least four decidedly uncommon men who apparently overcame this cultural instinct, even fighting for the Third Reich at the time of Britain's greatest need. These are the four different species of traitor that historian Josh Ireland has hand-picked in this superbly researched and written counter to the books on World War II heroes the shelves are awash with.

The Traitors features the die-hard anti-communist and national socialist-by-default John Amery, the frustrated patriot and fascist William Joyce, conscientious objector Eric Pleasants and killer conman Harold Cole. Their stories are prefaced by that of perhaps Britain's most notorious villain, the founder of the British Union of Fascists, Oswald Mosely. A suitable introduction to a book about traitors.

Ireland's third-person present tense is an ideal way to bring these stories to life and his language is vivid. There's a sense that the author is trying to break the stereotype of a World War II traitor, that they didn't necessarily have an innate and callous disregard for the country they were born in and its social norms – quite the opposite. But somehow, through moral weakness or unfortunate circumstance, they strayed from a better path.

It's an unusual angle on a controversial subject that only a powerful narrative like this could pull off – *The Traitors* is an excellent read.

MISS MURIEL MATTERS:
THE FEARLESS SUFFRAGIST WHO FOUGHT FOR EQUALITY

A long-overdue biography of the most inspiring woman you've never heard of

Author Robert Wainwright **Publisher** Allen & Unwin **Price** £18.99 **Released** Out now

"I have been in the midst of a seething mob before, and I am ready to give up my life," declared Muriel Matters in 1908 when she was faced by jeering protesters who violently opposed her demand for votes for women. She was on the campaign trail with a fellow suffragette, travelling through southern England in a bright green gypsy wagon pulled by a horse named Asquith – an ironic reference to the politician's opposition to her cause. It was a typically courageous response from a woman who was to become one of the brightest stars of the suffrage movement, yet who has unaccountably managed to slip from the public consciousness.

Muriel Matters honed her oratorical skills in her native Australia before moving to London in 1905 to build a career as a performer. However, as Robert Wainwright's book reveals, her sense of natural justice was outraged by the unscrupulous treatment of actresses and female stagehands and she soon quit the stage. A compelling speaker, her gifts were then harnessed by the Women's Freedom League, one of a number of campaigning organisations that made up the suffrage movement.

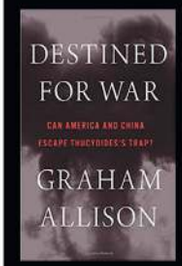
Wainwright gives a vivid account of the night she chained herself to the Grille, a metal barrier in the House of Commons that confined women to a gallery from which they could barely view proceedings. Once padlocked, she loudly declared "We demand the vote", thus becoming the first woman to make a speech in the House. The following year she took a risky trip on an airship distributing leaflets over London and gaining worldwide fame in the process.

This feisty woman went on to promote Montessori teaching, railed against war, campaigned for prison reform and spoke out against blood sports – yet she ended her days in Hastings, alone and largely forgotten. This book rescues her from historical oblivion.

HISTORY of WAR RECOMMENDS...

Destined For War

Author Graham Allison **Price** £18.99
Publisher Scribe



In *Destined For War*, Harvard scholar Graham Allison makes the case that the US and China are headed for war. Allison's arguments hinge on what's known as Thucydides's Trap, a deadly pattern that unfolds when a rising pattern challenges a ruling one. The scenario has played out 16 times in 500 years and resulted in war more often than not, starting with Athens' clash with Sparta in a little thing we call the Peloponnesian War. Through uncanny historical parallels and war scenarios, Allison shows how close we are to the unthinkable. Crucially, he also reveals how competing powers have kept the peace in the past – and what painful steps the US and China must take to avoid disaster today.

MARIE CURIE: THE RADIUM FAIRY

Radioactive waste (of fascinating material)

Author Chantal Montellier, Renaud Huynh **Artist** Chantal Montellier **Publisher** Europe Comics **Price** £6.49 **Released** Out now

The achievements of Marie Curie are remarkable. Not only did she twice win a Nobel prize, but she was the first female professor at the Sorbonne and pioneered the use of radiography in medicine. She also stalwartly withstood critics who accused her of claiming credit for her husband's work – she, in fact, was by far the better scientist of the two – and racists who objected to a Polish Jew pushing her way to the forefront of the Parisian intelligentsia. She deserves to be celebrated.

Not, however, in a graphic novel as trite as this. Over the course of 22 pages, Chantal Montellier's *Marie Curie: The Radium Fairy* reduces its subject's life to the level of a 'photo love' strip. Beginning with Curie's arrival in France to conduct research at the University of Paris, the narrative briskly covers her marriage to Pierre, the births of their daughters, their experiments, their discovery of radium and polonium, his death in a cycling accident, the scandals that dogged Marie throughout the remainder of her life, and finally her own death from leukaemia brought on by repeated exposure to ionising radiation.

Cringe-worthy captions abound: "One magnetic attraction can disguise another and when it came to Marie and Pierre, the attraction was irresistible." "Marie's belly was growing larger and larger and it wasn't due to the effect of X-rays!" "Was our joy too perfect to last? The wheels of fate would soon turn against us..." Danielle Steel could do better.

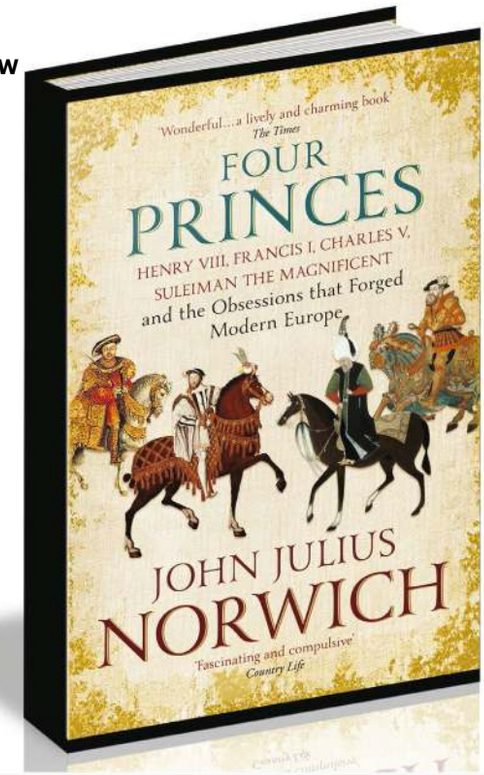
As for the artwork, it has a certain stiff, grainy authenticity, but its over-reliance on photo reference becomes laughable. Characters stare out from the page at the reader, looking maniacal or emotionless, and there is some clumsy literalism. For instance, one panel depicts religious zealots as humans with identical sheep's heads.

Bulking out the remainder of the book is a timeline by Renaud Huynh, director of the Curie Museum, which offers a mixture of text and archive photographs that is far more detailed and illuminating than anything preceding it.

FOUR PRINCES: HENRY VIII, FRANCIS I, CHARLES V, SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT AND THE OBSESSIONS THAT FORGED MODERN EUROPE

The larger-than-life rulers that defined the 16th century

Author John Julius Norwich **Publisher** John Murray **Price** £9.99 **Released** Out now



The allure of kings and queens of old is probably in part their opulence – the exquisite clothes, elaborate feasts and handsome palaces – and few shone more brightly than the four great monarchs that take centre stage in John Julius Norwich's latest book.

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, Henry VIII of England, Francis I of France and Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent were sometimes friends, more often enemies and always rivals possessing "elements of greatness", but they were all prone to making disastrous decisions.

After introducing us to the four – pious Charles, conqueror Suleiman, charming ladies' man Francis and popular (at least with his subjects) Henry – Norwich delves into their reigns through key themes such as war, family, culture and religion and illustrates just how much of an imprint they left on their respective countries and the continent.

The celebrated historian certainly revels in the witty remarks and anecdotes he shares. One gem is a report from a Venetian envoy, quizzed at length on Francis' figure by Henry. When told the French king had a "spare" leg, Henry "opened the front of his doublet and, placing his hand on his thigh, said: 'Look here: I too have a good calf to my leg.'" This rivalry intensified when Francis and Henry met in 1520 at the ludicrously lavish Field of the Cloth of Gold, where they both postured to their hearts' content.

Sadly the monarchs' immediate successors were not up to the task, a sentiment very firmly expressed by Norwich: "[Philip II, Charles' heir] was lugubrious, sanctimonious and more devout than even his father had been, though nowhere near so intelligent."

Summing up his ingenious book, Norwich declares there has never been so grand and eventful a half-century in history – and he's probably right.

THE PROMISE

The Armenian genocide as soap opera melodrama

Certificate: 12A **Director:** Terry George **Cast:** Oscar Isaac, Christian Bale, Jean Reno, Charlotte Le Bon **Released:** 29 August (Digital Download); 4 September (Blu-ray, DVD)

Terry George's admirably mounted but turgid melodrama weds together a grand love story against the early days of the Armenian genocide. *The Promise* boasts handsome production values and handsomer stars in Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon and Christian Bale, but it never brings its twin concerns to vivid life, instead relying on cheesy plotting, corny dialogue and soap opera dynamics.

There can be no doubt of Terry George's good intentions, and the subject raises vital awareness of hugely controversial actions by the Ottoman government (Turkey still refuses to recognise its treatment of the Armenians as genocide), but it's simply riddled with too many Hollywood clichés.

Mikael Boghossian (Isaac) is a young Armenian apothecary who moves to Constantinople to study medicine. While living with his merchant uncle, he meets Ana (Le Bon), a Paris-raised fellow Armenian employed as a governess. Betrothed to a great beauty back home, Mikael and Ana begin an illicit affair when love's young dream is interrupted by the Ottoman crackdown on Armenians during the outbreak of the Great War. If that wasn't enough drama, Ana's boyfriend, American journalist Chris Myers (Bale), is attempting to expose crimes against humanity while holding on to Ana.

Director George clearly modelled his film on the past masterpieces of David Lean (*Lawrence of Arabia, Doctor Zhivago, Brief Encounter*) and believed audiences would be thoroughly gripped by the battle between personal and political woes.

The Promise is gorgeously photographed, impeccably acted and curiously bland. It wants your tears and your heart to ache, but will achieve neither.

HISTORY ANSWERS

Send your questions to **questions@historyanswers.co.uk**

This 16th-century 'Pillars of Hercules' emblem appears on the Town Hall of Seville in Spain

What is the origin of the $ symbol?

Alice Freeman

It's surprisingly controversial. The most widely accepted theory is that it comes from the symbol for the Spanish Peso, which was initially written as a P with a smaller S in the top right, but later had the letters superimposed. Spanish coinage, in particular the 'real de a ocho', or piece of eight, was common currency across the world and was used in North America into the 19th century. These coins showed the Royal Seal of King Ferdinand II of Aragon, which was the twin Pillars of Hercules with an S-shaped scroll between them, and the $ symbol could be a simplified version of this.

Pieces of eight were silver coins, and the silver mine in Potosí, Bolivia, was the largest in the Americas until the 18th century. In 1672, the Spanish Colonial Mint was established in Potosí and coins made there were stamped with the letters 'PTSI', all superimposed. This essentially looks like an S with a single vertical stroke, which may have later changed to the dollar sign we know today. The piece of eight was intended to have the same value as a German thaler coin, originally made from silver mined in Joachimsthal, Bohemia. The Joachimsthaler was nicknamed the 'thaler', and from that we (somehow) get the word 'dollar'.

What happened to Glenn Miller?

David Amsel

On 15 December 1944, Glenn Miller flew across the English Channel to make arrangements for moving his Army Air Force band to Paris. His plane never arrived. Neither the wreckage nor the bodies were ever recovered and his death was not reported by the army for nine days, which has led to various conspiracy theories — including the idea that he was working as a spy. But Miller's ill-fated flight was in very bad weather, in a single-engined US Army Air Force UC-64, with a pilot who was not certified to fly in fog.

Military reports at the time stated that the fuel lines must have iced up, causing the engine to cut out while the plane was flying low. A 2009 investigation on behalf of Miller's son concluded that the pilot would have had just eight seconds to react before the plane plunged into the sea and sank.

ALTON GLENN MILLER

Nationality: American
Born-died: 1 March 1904 – 15 December 1944

Brief Bio

Glenn Miller was a big band musician and bandleader in the Swing Era. In 1942, at the height of his fame, he gave up his professional career and formed the 50-piece Army Air Force Band. In 1944, they toured England and gave 800 performances to entertain the troops.

The UC-64 was known to suffer from icing problems in its carburettor

This day in history 17 August

1498

A cardinal resigns
Cesare Borgia, illegitimate son of Pope Alexander VI, is the first person ever to resign as a cardinal. His elder brother has been assassinated in mysterious circumstances and Cesare wants to take his place.

1549

Battle of Sampford Courtenay
The Prayer Book Rebellion in Devon and Cornwall, protesting against the introduction of the English language liturgy in church, comes to an end. 1,300 rebels are killed in a heavy gun battle with government forces.

1807

First steamboat
The North River Steamboat begins its service on the Hudson River between New York City and Albany. It is the first commercial steam-powered boat in operation and travels at 6.5kph.

1908

First animated film
Emile Cohl releases *Fantasmagorie*, the first animated cartoon. It is 80 seconds long and shows a stick figure tumbling through a barely coherent stream-of-consciousness sequence of animals and people morphing into each other.

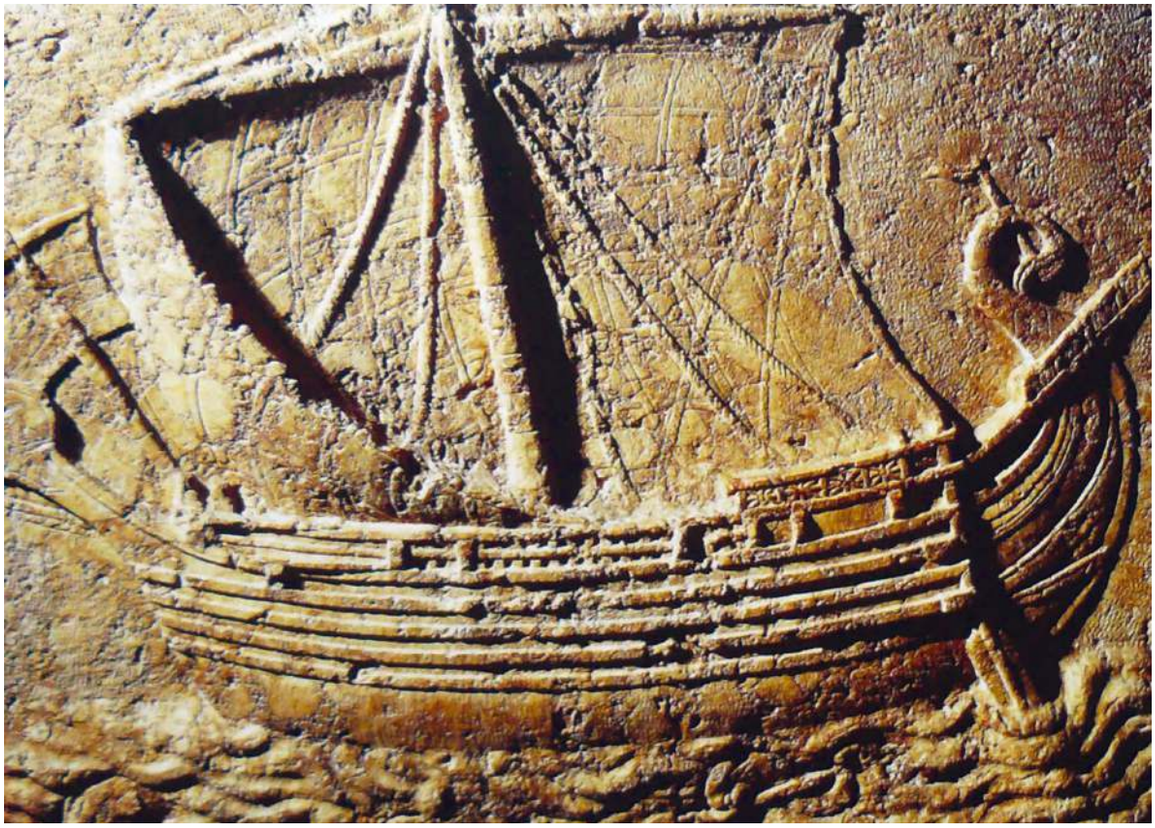
Who were the Phoenicians?

Ivan Giovanni

Although they're mentioned frequently in ancient texts by both the Greeks and the Romans as prosperous traders and skilled sailors, we know relatively little about the Phoenicians. We do know that they existed approximately between 1500 and 300 BCE as a loose confederation of maritime city-states. This included Tyre, Sidon, Byblos and Arwad, which were in the Levant coastal region, where Lebanon, Syria, and Israel are situated now.

They didn't actually call themselves Phoenicians – that was a Greek name, from the word 'phoinix', referring to the valued purple dye that came from Tyre. Historians sometimes refer to them as Canaanites instead.

Alexander the Great conquered the main Phoenician cities in 332 BCE, but Carthage in North Africa preserved the Phoenician cultural influence until the Romans took the city in 149 BCE.



A Phoenician ship depicted on a 2nd century CE sarcophagus

The White Castle chain has never franchised and all 420 restaurants today are owned by the company

When were French fries first paired with burgers?

Parveen Spano

The origins of both the hamburger and French fries go back to the 18th century at least, but the first fast food chain to serve them together was White Castle, which opened its first restaurant in 1921 in Wichita, Kansas. White Castle was also the first ever fast food chain, so burgers and fries have been paired together for as long as burger joints have existed. Burgers and fries had both been on diner menus for 20 years before that, but they are both foods that don't need cutlery, making them an obvious choice for fast food restaurants.

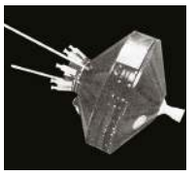
Find out how many animals Franz Ferdinand killed on his world tour **historyanswers.co.uk**

1943

Operation Hydra
The RAF bombs the Nazi V2 facility at Peenemünde, Germany. The raid uses 596 aircraft and drops 1,800 tons of bombs but only manages to delay the programme by about seven weeks.

1958

Pioneer 0 explodes
A United States Air Force mission to put a probe into orbit around the moon fails after the launch booster explodes 73 seconds into the flight. The next four Pioneer probes also fail their missions.



1959

A new lake
A magnitude 7.5 earthquake hits the state of Montana in the US. The quake triggers an 80-million-ton landslide, which blocks the Madison River and creates a new lake, called Quake Lake.

1977

Ship reaches pole
The Soviet nuclear-powered icebreaker Arktika becomes the first surface ship to reach the North Pole. It will later become the first civilian ship to spend a year at sea without returning to port.

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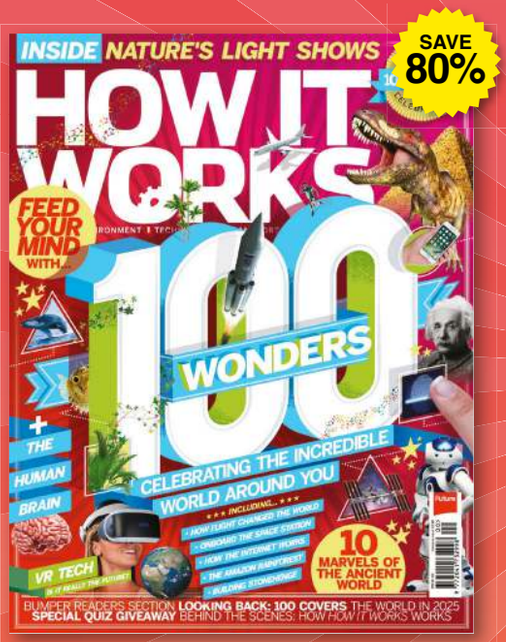

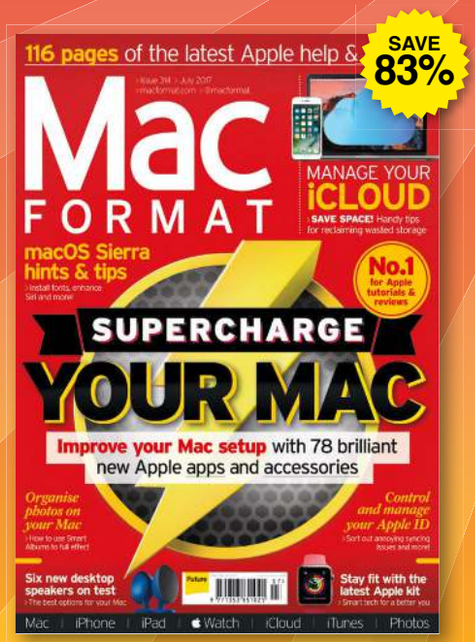

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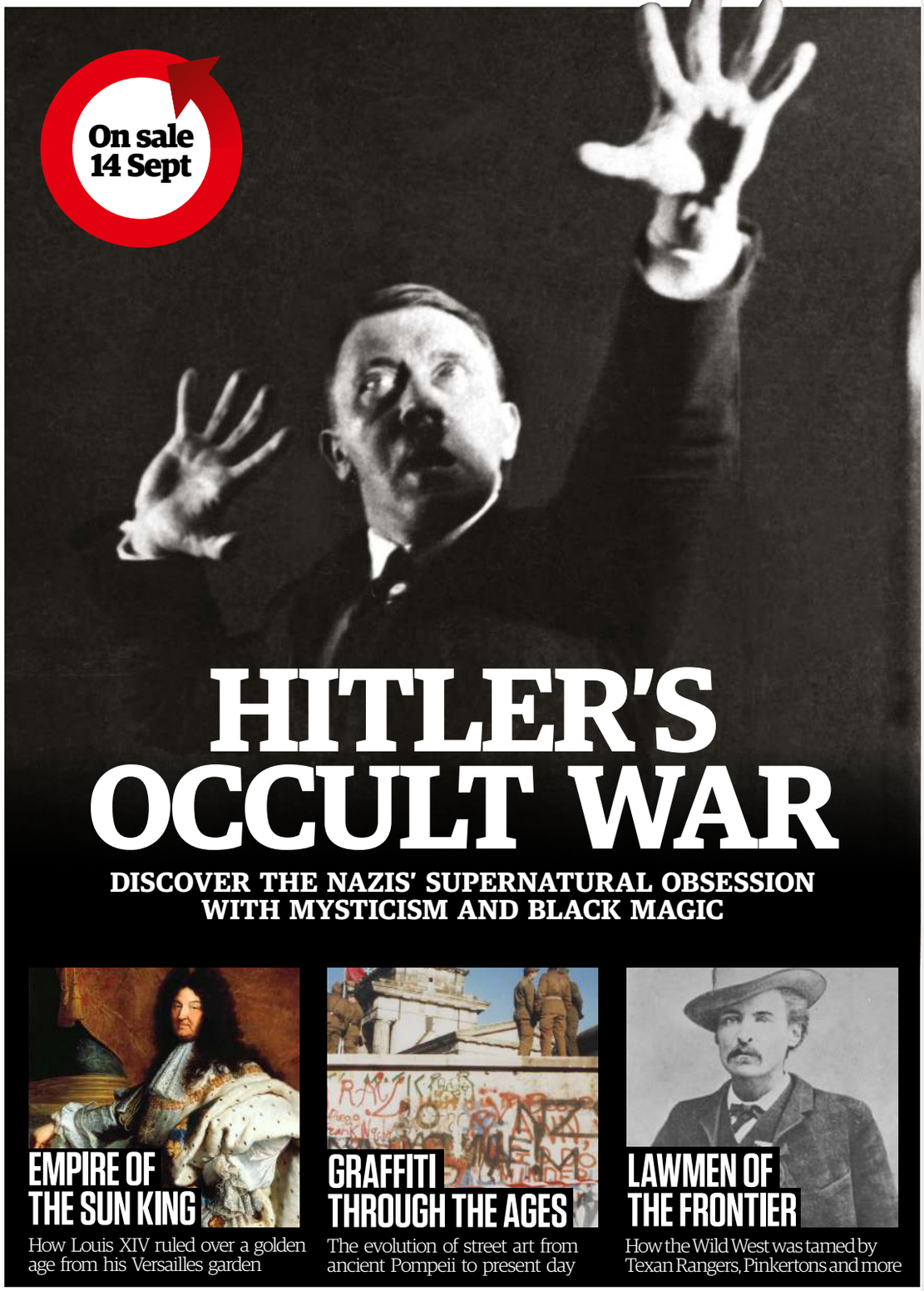

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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

THE LION IN WINTER

Director: Anthony Harvey **Starring:** Peter O'Toole, Katharine Hepburn, Anthony Hopkins, Timothy Dalton
Country: UK, US **Released:** 1968

This star-studded Medieval drama perfectly captures the Angevins' perpetual family feud

A–

VERDICT While the dialogue may be fiction, the film basks in the complex historical background of the period.

01 While Chinon was a lynchpin in the Plantagenet defence, there is no record of a court being held in the winter of 1183. Indeed, the heir apparent, Henry the Young King, was dead by Christmas and Richard named as heir, so the court wouldn't have been necessary.

02 Richard I and Philip II's supposed love affair is eluded to in the film. The case of Richard's homosexuality is fairly recent and not a claim made in his lifetime. While there is no proof that Richard wasn't gay, there isn't any clear evidence suggesting he was.

03 As shown in the film, Henry II and Eleanor liked to play favourites. The queen clearly favoured Richard and made him rebel against his father. Although seemingly weaker and more incompetent than his brothers, the king doted on youngest son, John.

04 The characters' motives and actions are highly accurate. Philip and Richard's rivalry and Henry and Eleanor's verbal sparring ring true, and Henry II's manic energy is also perfectly captured by Peter O'Toole, right down to the infamous chewing of the rushes.

05 The love triangle between Alice, daughter of the French king, Henry II, and Richard is another sticking point. Richard's marriage to Alice would have secured an alliance between France and England – Henry II making her his mistress sunk it.

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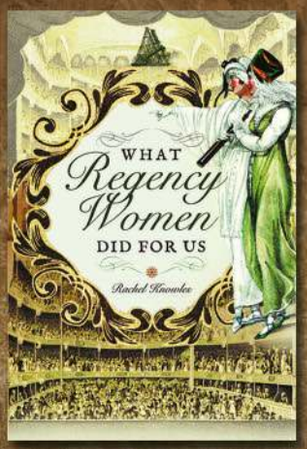

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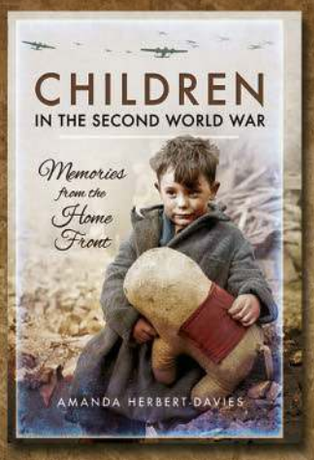

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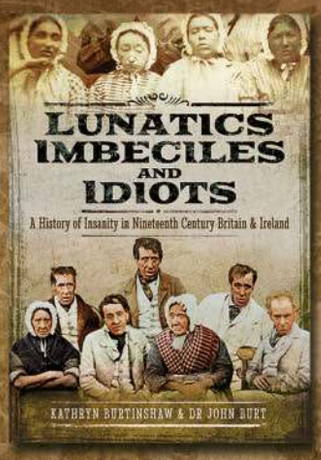

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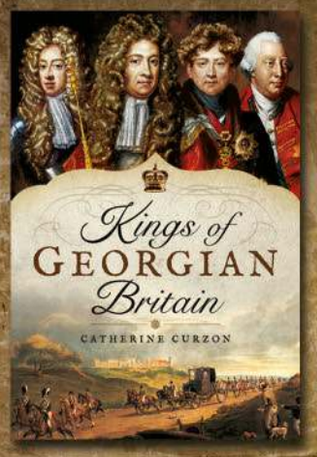

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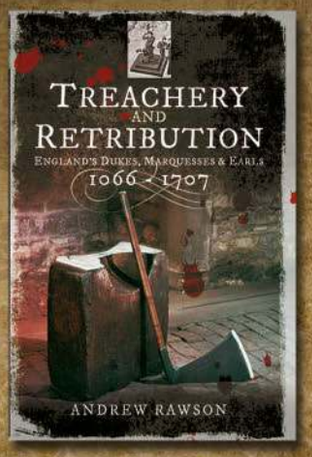

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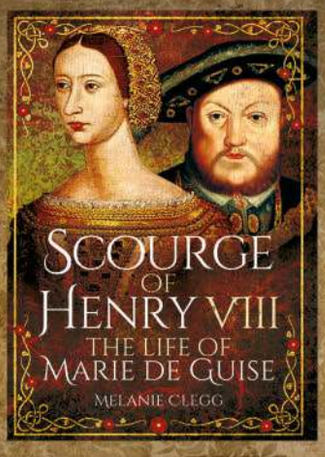

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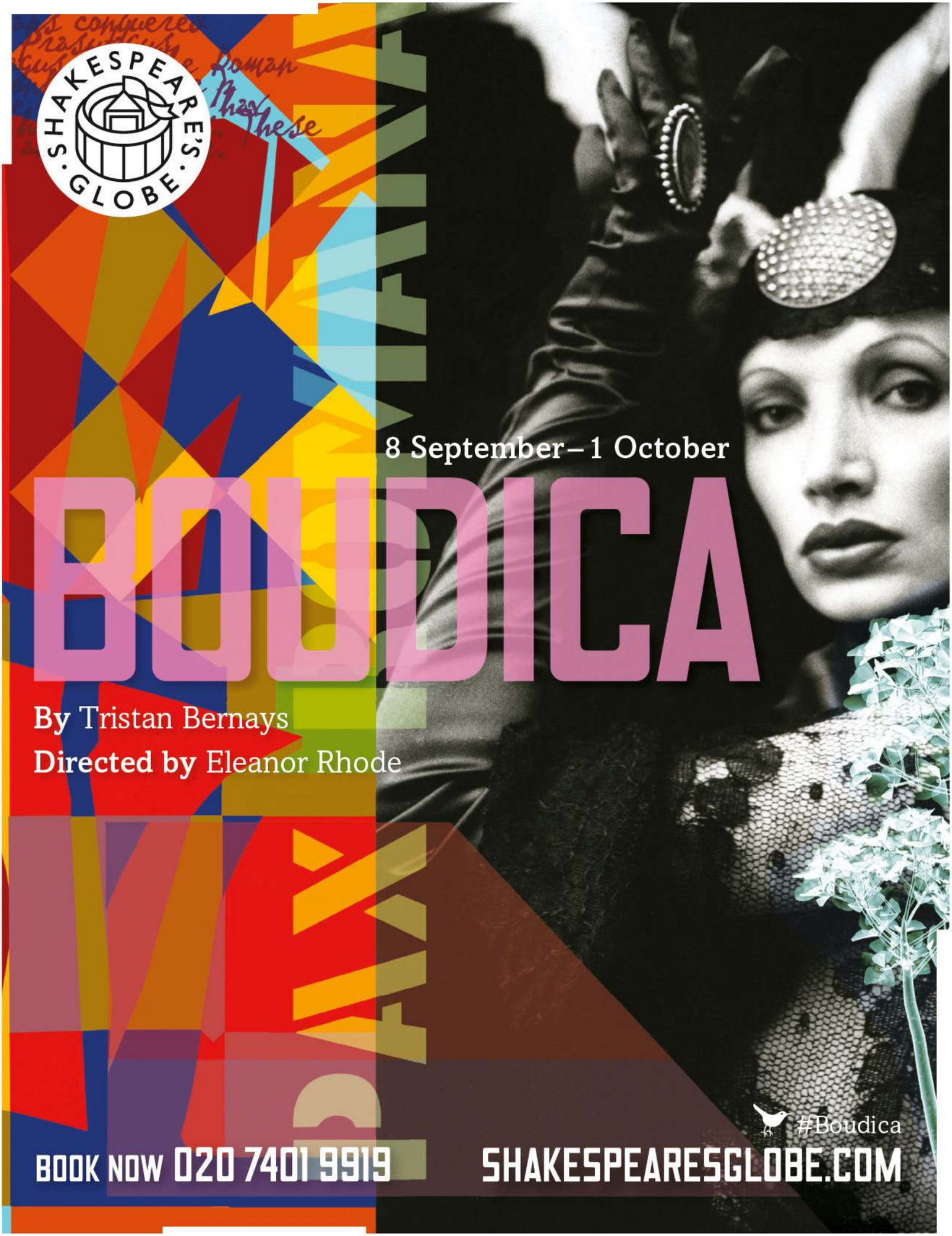
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